



- NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Cherokee Hiking Club Members—

Some sad news this past month as we lost Marc Bernatti and James Wyatt. Our condolences go out to their families.

Currently, Larry Van Dyke is in a local hospital dealing with a minor surgery that had numerous complications. He is slowly recovering but it appears it will be a long road to full recovery. Our thoughts go to Larry and Candy and their family.

September is fast upon us and we have a busy schedule as the weather begins to cool. In addition to the Narrows and Childers Creek day hikes, we have the Grayson Highlands campout. If you plan to make that event, remember to bring a jacket. The campground is at 4000-foot elevation and the day hikes will be above that. Also remember to bring your pie iron. There are more recipes to try!

The club meeting in September will be a potluck supper at Charleston (TN) City Park. Join us and catch up on club events.

Looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Jack Callahan, Club President

- CHEROHALA SKYWAY

From [Cherohala Skyway National Scenic Byway](#): "The Cherohala Skyway repairs are officially underway. TDOT is working hard to provide a temporary fix at mile marker 4.5. This should be completed within 2-3 weeks. The permanent solution will take place at a later date. We cannot wait to have the Skyway completely open soon!"

- INDIAN BOUNDARY CAMPGROUND

From [WVLT-TN](#): "Indian Boundary Campground has been closed until further notice after a series of August storms damaged the Cherohala Skyway, U.S. Forest Service officials announced Tuesday." (The General Store is also closed until further notice.)

- LAKEVIEW DRIVE OR ROAD TO NOWHERE

From [Explore Bryson City NC](#): "ICYMI: From now through November 14, Lakeview Drive, also known as Road to Nowhere, will be closed for reconstruction funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. The road will be closed to all public access, including foot traffic, bicycles, horses, and vehicles. Cemeteries along Lakeview Drive will be open on Sunday, October 8 for anyone planning a Decoration Day or cemetery visit.

Hikers and visitors will not be able to access the Noland Creek Trail, Lakeshore Trail, Goldmine Loop Trail, Benton MacKaye Trail, Lakeview Drive Tunnel, or the Tunnel Bypass Trail from the road during the closure. Those on thru hikes will not be able to get into Bryson City from the Tunnel on the Road to Nowhere for resupply. For a list of other trails to explore, visit the link in bio.

This project provides significant enhancements to ensure their preservation and provide opportunities for recreation, education, and enjoyment for current and future visitors. Work will include the complete reconstruction of the 6.5-mile-long road, replacement of all guardrails, construction of ADA accessible parking spaces, new road signs, drainage repair and other miscellaneous work. [#ExploreBrysonCity](#)"

- PAST EVENTS

SOUTH FORK CITICO CREEK WILDERNESS TRAIL JULY 31, 2023



Eleven folks hiked 11 miles from the state line crossing of the Cherokee Skyway at Beech Gap north out the Benton MacKaye Trail for about two miles to Cold Springs Gap, then down the South Fork Citico Creek Trail for nine miles, dropping about 3000 feet. There were lots of wildflowers out, especially at the higher elevations; and several creek crossings, two of which were challenging. Also challenging were the thick blackberry briars, dog hobble, and greenbrier in some sections, as well as some rocky sections. We expected to see a copperhead or rattlesnake or two, but did not. There were only a few trees down across the trail. We all made it out alive and happy, but tired. The weather was fairly nice. It started out cool and warmed up to about 80 degrees at the bottom.



Rick and Brenda Harris were the Hike Leaders. Rick stopped the group several times to discuss various aspects of the logging operations conducted here in the early 1900s and told many stories about the life back then; and the more recent stories of a dead horse on the trail and a lost monkey as well. He also discussed the story behind the Wilderness designation and what is allowed and not allowed in Wilderness areas.



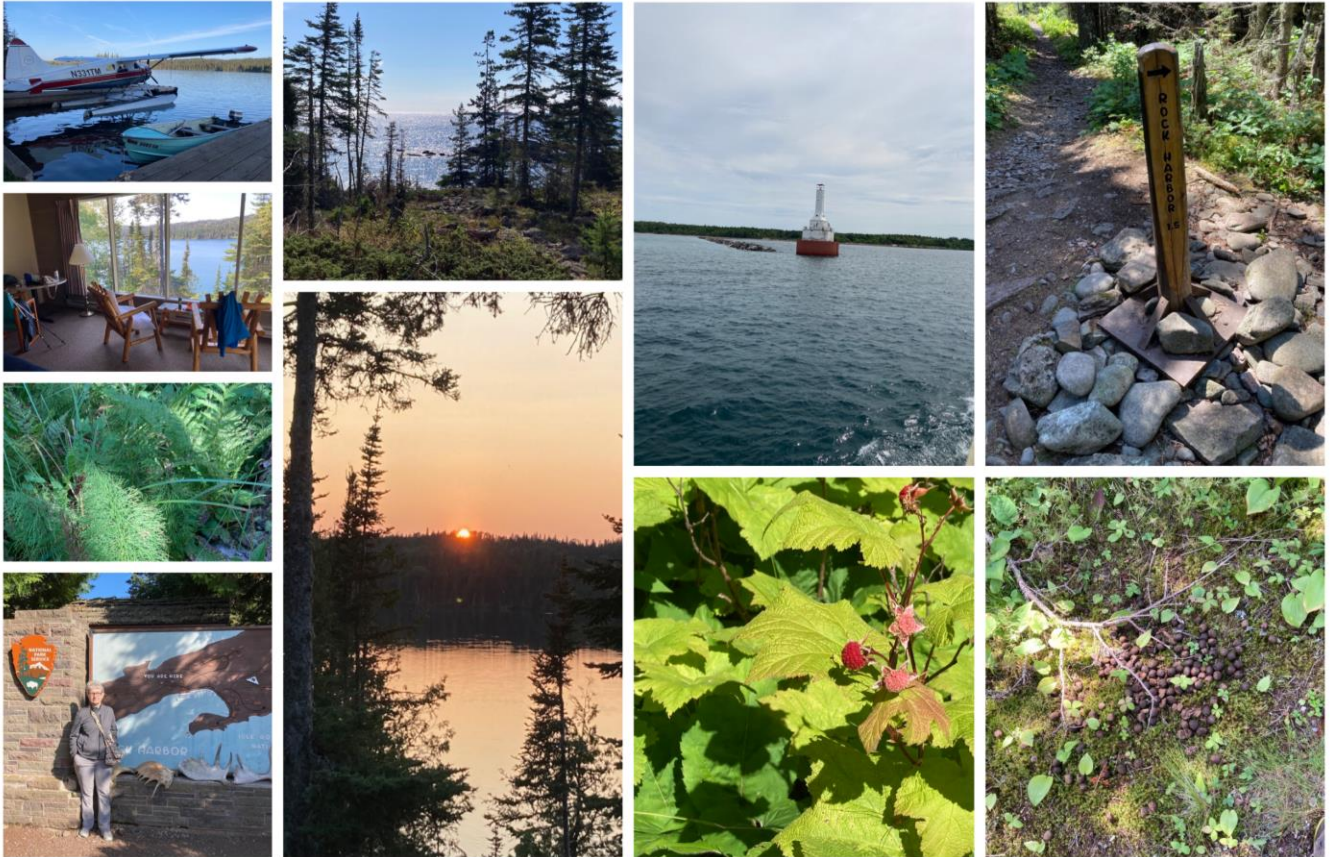
It was a fun day for all, but, as expected, fairly difficult. On the hike besides Rick and Brenda Harris were Sue Robinson, Steve Kidd, Anne Anderson, Don Van Hook, Otis Pannell, Lucia Case, Judy Price, Jack Callahan, and Danny Yarberry. • Rick Harris

THERE WAS NO AUGUST CLUB MEETING.

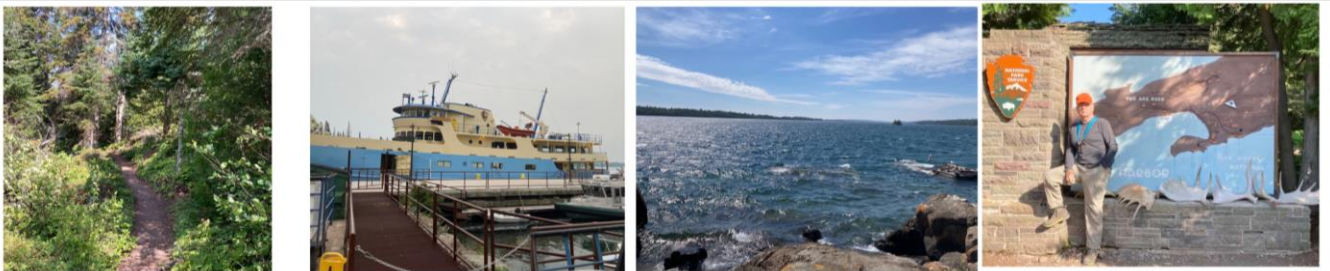
ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK AUGUST 11 - 19, 2023



On August 12, four members of the club arrived in Houghton, Michigan, to begin their trip to Isle Royale National Park. On August 13, the group took a pontoon plane to Tobin Harbor, a 45-minute flight. On arrival, the group went to the office and left their luggage and made a 3.8-mile loop hike to Suzy's Cave and back. Returning to the lodge, the group checked in to their respective cabins overlooking Tobin Harbor. Jennifer prepared supper for the group. Afterwards, we listened to the call of the loons in the bay and got a few shots of the sunset.



Monday morning, after a leisurely breakfast in the cabins, the group set out for Scoville Point on the northeast end of the peninsula. The 4.5-mile loop trail gave great views of several smaller islands and the large expanse of Lake Superior. Scoville Point is named after a miner who operated copper mines on the island. There is also a plaque to Albert Stoll, Jr., on the point. Mr. Stoll was instrumental in making possible the preservation of Isle Royale as a National Park. Along the way, there were historic mining sites by the native tribes as early as 2500 BC. There are more than 1000 pits on the island. The copper was pure enough to be directly cold-hammered into knives, points, and ornaments. From the point, there is one of several cabins on the island left over from when the island was in private hands. It is now used at times by researchers in cooperation with the park service. The walk passed over several locations of exposed rock where the erosion caused by glaciers is plainly visible. There were a lot of signs of moose, but we never saw a moose. Some of the plants we encountered that were new to some of us included thimbleberry, moosewood viburnum, horsetail fern, red baneberry, hydrellum peckii (which is a fungus which looks like it is bleeding), and creeping dogwood, among others.



Evening supper was had at the lodge restaurant, and plans were made to take a water ferry to one of the lighthouses and a historic fishery on Tuesday. Tuesday was again a beautiful clear day with a brilliant blue sky, but with high winds of up to 15-18 mph. Due to the whitecaps and waves, our ferry trip was canceled. We enjoyed the afternoon sitting on the restaurant porch and talking with numerous visitors to the island. We met one young man who was a statistics professor at the college in Houghton, and he gave us an education on the area and town name pronunciations. We enjoyed supper at the restaurant, which was very well-run and the food was good.



Wednesday morning, we packed up and queued up for the Ranger III ferry ride back to Houghton. In talking with one of the rangers on the ferry, we learned that the Ranger III was purchased by the Park Service in 1959 and was the largest vehicle in the Park Service fleet. The wind had calmed a bit and the ride was very smooth, which had been a concern earlier. We arrived in Houghton around 3:00 pm and the statistics professor volunteered to shuttle Jennifer and me to our vehicles at the seaplane port, about two miles away. He was tipped for his service and, after driving back to the dock, we loaded luggage and Jack and Margaret headed home while Jennifer and Mitchell took off for Duluth and points west to climb more state summit high points.



It was a very worthwhile trip and we gained a great deal of new knowledge about the country. Club members making the trip included Jennifer and Mitchell Schroll, and Jack and Margaret Callahan. - Jack Callahan



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.

THE NARROWS

SEPTEMBER 8, 2023 FRIDAY RELIANCE TN

Cherokee National Forest Rating: Moderate, Length: five miles. Trail is along the Hiwassee River going east to the most-narrow place on the river. See beautiful outcroppings, a tiny cave, river potholes, and other gorgeous geological features when the river is low. Sometimes there are pawpaws and persimmons to try. Contact Hike Leader Clare Sullivan at clare7982@gmail.com or 404-849-0872.

BIRDWATCHING AT ATHENS REGIONAL PARK

RESCHEDULED TO OCTOBER 2, 2023 MONDAY ATHENS TN

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 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 **Thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail** by Otis Pannell and Clayton Pannell.

CHILDERS CREEK

SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 FRIDAY RELIANCE TN

This is an out-and-back hike along the beautiful Hiwassee River on the Childers Creek section of the Benton MacKaye Trail/John Muir NRT. It will cover a total of six miles and is considered moderate. We will meet at the Childers Creek trailhead at 9 am and hike to Big Bend. Please bring water and something to eat. Contact Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 if you want to be notified of any changes or cancellation related to the hike.

GRAYSON HIGHLANDS STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 17 - 20, 2023 SUNDAY – WEDNESDAY VIRGINIA

Day hike on the balds in the high country near the campground, see the wild ponies, and enjoy the beginning of fall. The campground is located at the edge of Mount Rogers, the highest point in Virginia. The campground is close to 4000-foot elevation, so bring a jacket for the evening activities. There is a nice open field adjacent to some of the campsites which make a great place to sky watch for satellites and meteors. Several of us have made reservations and we are in sites 64 and 66. There are many miles of trail in the area, including the Appalachian Trail. **NOTE:** Optional hike on Sunday, September 17—Meet at the Visitor Center at 2 pm to hike the Twin Pinnacles Trail. According to the park map, this trail is 1.33 miles and rated moderate. After the hike, we can check into our campsites. We will have an informal meeting Sunday evening to set a schedule of hikes for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Contact the Event Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 or jennifergeologist@gmail.com for more specific information about the campground and campsites.

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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.

[TN SERVES & NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY](#)

SEPTEMBER 15 - 24, 2023 FRIDAY - SUNDAY

"A combined volunteer effort with NEEF's Annual National Public Lands Day and the Tennessee First Lady's TN Serves monthly volunteer challenge."

[OHIO PAWPAW FESTIVAL](#)

SEPTEMBER 15 - 17, 2023 FRIDAY - SUNDAY

"Pawpaws to the People! The Ohio Pawpaw Festival is a fun-filled, educational community event celebrating one of America's largest native tree fruits, the pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*)."

[PINHOTI FEST](#)

SEPTEMBER 22 - 24, 2023 FRIDAY - SUNDAY

"The Pinhoti Fest is the annual event that kicks off the Pinhoti Trail hiking season."

[BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING AND HIKE FEST](#)

NOVEMBER 2 - 5, 2023 THURSDAY - SUNDAY TELLICO PLAINS TN

- [Hikes](#)
- [Non-hiking Adventures](#)
- [Annual Meeting Accommodations](#)

There will be multiple hikes daily ranging from Easy to Difficult. Folks can attend the hikes even if they are unable to attend the Annual Meeting and dinner. There will be a Mexican Dinner Social on Friday, November 3, after the hikes. On Saturday, November 4, there will be a BMTA Annual Meeting and dinner with a guest speaker that promises to be intriguing. The Mexican Dinner Social will be free; the Saturday night dinner will be \$30 - \$35. The dinner both nights will be at the Alumni Center of Tellico Plains High School. (This building is on the side of the parking lot at TPHS.) Contact **Rick Harris** at 513-260-1184 or **Clare Sullivan** at 404-849-0872 or clare7982@gmail.com for more information. You must contact Rick or Clare if you plan to attend a hike. Sign-up sheets for Saturday and Sunday hikes will be at the Alumni Center on Friday and Saturday nights. More information will be forthcoming.

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

• **MINUTES**

There was no monthly club meeting in August 2023. We will vote on the June and July minutes at the September 2023 meeting. See the July and August newsletters for those minutes.