

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello all!

Dues for 2024 are due! If you haven't done so, please send a \$15 (per family in a household) check to Cherokee Hiking Club, 1295 Crown Street NW, Cleveland, TN 37312. You will no longer receive a newsletter if dues are not paid.

Our club calendar of events is complete and there are a lot of great hikes and events scheduled. There are several group campouts with the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area back on the schedule. We also have a campout at Roan Mountain State Park where we will do day hikes and have birding walks each day. The Walk in the Woods events and the Greenway walks will continue and there are several guided tours of historic sites. One of these is a guided hike by the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park historian of Moccasin Bend, with emphasis on the early Native American sites. Some historical guided events will require very little walking. There are almost weekly day hikes from the Cumberland Plateau to the Cherokee National Forest and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Club monthly meetings will have speakers on a variety of subjects. There are some multi-day backpacking trips, one in Colorado, and another in the Smokies. And our great members will provide great meals for our potluck meetings. Every member of the club is a valued volunteer, and you all pull together and contribute to make the Cherokee Hiking Club a wonderful organization. Looking forward to seeing everyone as we enjoy these events and share time with one another!

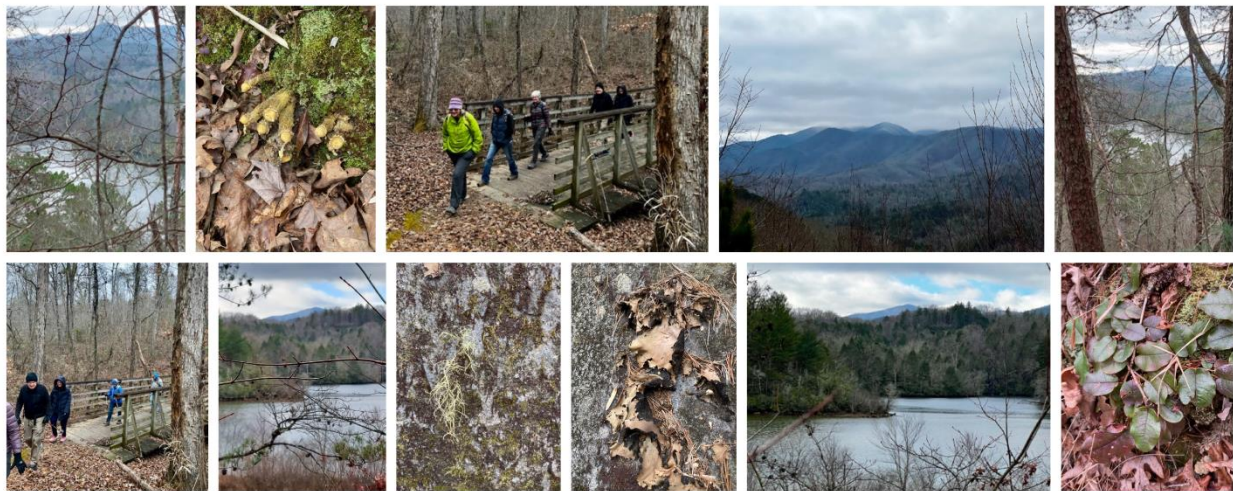
Jack Callahan, Club President

PAST EVENTS

BRUSH CREEK TRAIL JANUARY 1, 2024



Eight-and-a-half members and guests came out on the first day of 2024 to hike about six miles on Brush Creek Trail from Boyd Gap Overlook. One member had a flat tire on the way and was unable to join us. Hikers were: Hike Leader Jennifer and Mitchell Schroll, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Ginger Pippenger, Nancy Barr, Buddy Arnold, and Kathy Thelen. We started at the Boyd Gap Overlook where we could see some nice views of the Ocoee River down in the gorge. We hiked down to where the trail gets close to the lake behind Ocoee Dam #3 and then took the spur trail on the way back to Boyd Gap. There were some more nice views of the lake from the spur trail. It was a great way to start the new year! • Jennifer Schroll



EUREKA TRAIL JANUARY 4, 2024



Seven hikers met at the Eureka Trail in Athens and enjoyed a six-mile walk on the old railbed. It was cloudy and cold but the sun peeked through the clouds a few times. Visitors Jane Chastain and David Thomforde joined members Lisa Thompson, Judy Price, Jack Callahan, Charlene Sudore, and Hike Leader Kelly Ducham. • Kelly Ducham



MCGILL CREEK SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL JANUARY 5, 2024



Nine hikers and a doggo met at Roaring Creek Trailhead in Graysville, Tennessee, to begin hiking on the Cumberland Trail. We started heading south, did a short road walk across Roaring Creek, then headed back into the woods! The first section is very pretty with little waterfalls during rainy times and a sort of “amphitheater” feel as the trail switchbacks. We were soon gaining elevation. We joked that we were getting Buddy Arnold ready for his Big Bend National Park trip! Many blowdowns had been cleared on the trail and we owe the maintainers many thanks! The trail crosses Brayton Mountain Road and we had amazing views of Cranmore Cove. Mary Alton can always be depended upon to pull out her PeakVisor app to identify the mountains. She pointed out Fort Mountain and Big Frog among others. The trail continued on the ridge along the cove, then dropped down into the creek gorge. We were lucky for the recent dry weather as we had no major water crossings to deal with. We now hiked alongside the very pretty, cascading McGill Creek until we came to McGill Creek Bridge. The trail up to this point is moderate. The trail past the bridge is newer and should be considered strenuous. We walked up stone steps where we had a wonderful view of the bluff across the creek; then we hiked back down to walk along the creek. Soon we slowly and carefully picked our way across a boulder field which eventually took us to the McGill Falls blue-blazed trail. The falls were flowing and gorgeous! We retraced our steps back to the bridge where we had lunch; then we made our way back to the trailhead after hiking 5.6 miles. Hikers this day were visitor Jen McGlohon and members Mary Alton, Buddy Arnold, Leslie Auriemmo, Jack Callahan, Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Kelly Ducham, Jennifer Schroll, and Hike Leader Judy Price. • Judy Price



BAY POINT LOOP | HARRISON BAY STATE PARK JANUARY 11, 2024



We enjoyed a 4.3-mile hike on the Bay Loop Trail at Harrison Bay State Park. Eight hikers made their way along the trail with lovely views of the lake. The trail was wet and soggy in places due to the recent rains but everyone managed their way and enjoyed the sunshine and blue skies. We learned some plants and birds along the way and even surprised a young deer. Hikers were Hike Leader Kelly Ducham, Jill Davis, Jack Callahan, Donna Botterbusch, Kathy Thelen, Ginger Pippenger, Judy Price, and Susan McQueeney. • Kelly Ducham



LOOKOUT WILD FILM FESTIVAL JANUARY 11 - 14, 2024



Margaret and Jack Callahan attended Lookout Wild Film Festival again this year for the Saturday matinee. There were many films from surfing to hiking to free diving. The woman in the free diving clip dove to a depth of 484 (?) feet...an amazing depth without oxygen. Next time you are in the car, notice how far you drive in one tenth of a mile...that will give you an idea of just about how far down she went. Anyone who has not attended this event should keep it in mind for next year, and review the schedule and pick out a time to see some of these amazing things that people are doing in the great outdoors. • Jack Callahan

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING JANUARY 14, 2023



A group of dedicated members met in Etowah, TN, for the Annual Planning Meeting. Club President Jack Callahan coordinated the meeting as the members developed the 2024 Calendar of Events. The proposals came fast and furious and the months began to fill up quickly with some great hikes, historic tours, canoe/kayak options and group campouts and backpacking trips. Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who could not attend and supplied many more events by email and texts. And thanks to members who will be giving presentations at club meetings. It is a great lineup of interesting subjects. The calendar has been organized and soon will be available online at the club web page. It will be another great year of fun gatherings and great potluck meals! • Jack Callahan

CHEROKEE REMOVAL MEMORIAL PARK | HIWASSEE WILDLIFE REFUGE | BLYTHE FERRY | VENERABLE OAK JANUARY 19, 2024

Canceled due to inclement weather. • Judy Price

OUTER LOOP | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK JANUARY 25, 2024

Rescheduled to Monday, February 12, 2024, due to inclement weather. • Kelly Ducham

WESTMORE OUTDOOR EXPO AND DINNER JANUARY 27, 2024



The club had a table again this year, with members Judy Price, Jennifer Schroll, Lucia Case, Otis Pannell, and Jack and Margaret Callahan meeting potential new members and discussing the adventures that the club is involved in. Club members Clare and Ed Sullivan were also in attendance as they staffed a table for the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA). There was a great turnout to the event with several hundred people in attendance. The meal included roast chicken, venison chili and meatballs, BBQ pork, and potatoes. And a great banana pudding! Lucia was the club prize winner with a nice 9000 btu Little Buddy portable gas heater. We had a nice time and look forward to attending again next year. • Jack Callahan



WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND/BRADLEY COUNTY GREENWAY



Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland/Bradley County 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 governing agencies and offices regarding health and safety, weather, or other conditions.

EUREKA TRAIL

FEBRUARY 1, 2024 | THURSDAY | ATHENS TN

Join in for a fun walk on the Eureka Trail. Beginning at 10:30 am, we will walk five to six miles along the easy, wide, gravel path. This is a multi-use trail so there may be bikers and horseback riders out for the day. We will begin our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue in Athens, Tennessee. There are restrooms available. Bring water and a snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

RED CLAY STATE HISTORIC PARK

FEBRUARY 5, 2024 | MONDAY | CLEVELAND TN

Beginning at 10:30, we will walk the 1.7-mile Council of Trees Trail which will take us past the Overlook Tower. Then we will walk around the meadow and view the historical Farmstead buildings and the Blue Hole Spring. If interested, we will visit the James F. Corn Interpretive Facility which contains exhibits on the 19th century Cherokee, the Trail of Tears, Cherokee art, a video theater, gift shop and small library. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. If meeting us at the trailhead, as you enter the park take the road to the right and head to the parking area near the amphitheater. There are restrooms available at the Interpretive Facility. Bring water and a snack/lunch! For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

FEBRUARY 8, 2024 | THURSDAY 6 PM | ETOWAH SENIOR CENTER

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. The program is **Benton MacKaye Trail** by Clare Sullivan.

GRAYSVILLE MOUNTAIN RMA SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

FEBRUARY 10, 2024 | SATURDAY

Ten miles, moderately strenuous due to rocky terrain, seasonal creek/drainage crossings. (My Garmin indicated 1877' total ascent/1778' total descent.) We will pass rock bluffs and rockhouses, waterfalls, and magnificent overlooks. Weather permitting, we will take a break at Gilbreath Falls or Cranmore Cove Overlook for lunch. The last miles of the hike are mostly downhill and then flat. There is an eight-and-a-half-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

OUTER LOOP | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK

FEBRUARY 12, 2024 | MONDAY

Depart from Cleveland Park and Ride [commuter parking](#) next to the Mapco at I-75 and Hwy 60 at 10 am or meet at the trailhead at 10:30 am. We will hike the 3.9-mile easy Outer Loop Trail which skirts Chickamauga Lake for some nice views. Bring water and a snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please text Hike Leader Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or email dkss2063@hotmail.com for details. • Kelly Ducham

ENTERPRISE SOUTH NATURE PARK

FEBRUARY 22, 2024 | THURSDAY | CHATTANOOGA TN

Beginning at 10:30 am, we will hike a four-mile loop beginning at the entrance where the Poe Run Path begins. There is a good incline on this trail but we will take it easy and slow as needed. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. If meeting us there, as you enter the park, turn left at the parking area across from the Visitor Center. There are restrooms available at the Visitor Center. Bring water and lunch/snack! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

BUSHWHACK TO FALLS ON ROCK CREEK

FEBRUARY 24, 2024 | SATURDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Difficult five-to-six mile off-trail hike and scramble to see several waterfalls on a remote portion of Rock Creek above Rainbow Falls and below Benton Falls. Meet at the Clemmer Trailhead on Highway 30 just north of Parksville Lake at 9:00 am. Wear appropriate clothing and sturdy boots and bring work gloves to wear as needed. Bring a lunch and water and first aid kit. This is not a hike for the faint of heart! It will be very difficult. Contact Hike Leaders Clare Sullivan and Jack Callahan at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com.

GUIDED TOUR OF [MOCASSIN BEND NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT](#) | CHICKAMAUGA AND CHATTANOOGA NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

FEBRUARY 27, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHATTANOOGA TN

Mr. Jim Ogden, Park Historian, will lead us on a two-hour walking tour of some of the historic area of early settlements on the Bend. To carpool from Cleveland, contact Jack at the number below. We will meet at the gated trailhead parking on 200 Moccasin Bend Road at 9:45 am. The tour will travel through wooded areas and there will be little or no trail. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing to walk through some brush. There are no facilities where we will be so be sure to make necessary stops before you arrive. After the tour, we will eat at a local restaurant in the area. If you plan to attend, text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

RHODODENDRON TRAIL AND BEAR PAW LOOP

FEBRUARY 29, 2024 | THURSDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

We will meet at Thunder Rock Trailhead at 10:30 am and hike Rhododendron Trail and Bear Paw Loop, (then back Rhododendron Trail to Thunder Rock). This easy hike is approximately four miles, but there is a gradual uphill on the Bear Paw Loop. We will take it easy and slow as needed. Carpool will be available from Cleveland, if interested. Bring water and a snack/lunch! The hike will be canceled in the event of poor weather. For questions or to sign up, please contact Hike Leader Kelly Ducham by text at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

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NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

TELICO/OCOE 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.

4TH ANNUAL (VIRTUAL) KENTUCKY BOTANICAL SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 2, 2024

"Coming together to discuss current botanical projects, conservation, and collaboration in Kentucky and beyond."

CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 16 - 17, 2024

Volunteer trail maintenance on Lower Piney River section.

SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

MAY 1 - 4, 2024

The program will be released mid-February.

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