

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wildflower time is upon us. There are lots of hikes going on to enjoy them. Also, there are numerous guided tours of historic sites coming up where you can learn about the history that occurred in your own backyard.

We have had several folks join in the past few months, and our total membership is about 110. Take time to get to know these new hikers and spend time with them on events.

The weather is warming up, and while you can get dehydrated anytime, the warmer weather can cause it to come on quicker. Always carry sufficient water and be sure that your fellow hikers are well-supplied before hitting the trail. Hike Leaders, be sure to take hydration breaks often.

Remember, if you plan to attend a hike, you must contact the Hike Leader to get your name on the list for the particular event. This way, if a hike is canceled for any reason (like weather), you will be notified beforehand. Also, some events may have a limited number of openings.

Looking forward to seeing everyone out and about this year and sharing the great experiences that we have together.

Jack Callahan, Club President

PAST EVENTS

MOCCASIN BEND NATIONAL ARCHEOLOGICAL DISTRICT FEBRUARY 27, 2024



There was a great turnout for the guided tour of the historic site. Our group met with Mr. Jim Ogden, the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park historian at the designated trailhead, and, after introductions, Mr. Ogden gave us an overview of the area. As we walked along the trail, interesting sites of the area were pointed out, such as the former asphalt runway for a remote-control plane club. Another interesting thing was the discussion on the area that was filled with surplus material when I-24 was constructed. We stopped near the river and were told about the area's history from 12,000 years ago and how the area and inhabitants changed through the years. As we went, Mr. Ogden pointed out evidence of the changes of man's impact on the area. We then stopped at the remains of one of the very large ancient town sites with evidence of former structures; unfortunately, we saw evidence of plundering by pot hunters from the past century. Interestingly, this town site was many years before the Cherokee tribes became dominant in the Tennessee Valley. There is so much unexplored archeological information yet to be uncovered on the Bend. It is an amazing place and is certainly worthy of the National Park status and holds great opportunity of further exploration and interpretation. Mr. Ogden did an excellent job of sharing information with us and is a wonderful skilled presenter. Afterwards the group had a really good lunch at the Pourhouse in Chattanooga. • Jack Callahan

RHODODENDRON TRAIL AND BEAR PAW LOOP FEBRUARY 29, 2024



Ten hikers joined Hike Leader Kelly Ducham for a relaxing four-mile hike in the Cherokee National Forest. We met at Thunder Rock campground and started our walk along the Ocoee River. The Rhododendron Trail is a flat, one-mile path that looks down upon the river. There are many mosses and ferns growing along the trail and several small waterfalls. During the summer months, there is a lot of activity on the river with kayaks and whitewater excursions; but this time of year, all is quiet. We followed the Rhododendron Trail to the Bear Paw Loop trailhead and began the uphill part of the hike. This is a nice loop trail with just enough elevation to get everyone warmed up. We followed the loop in a counterclockwise direction and ended up back at the trailhead where we retraced our steps along the Rhododendron Trail to the Thunder Rock parking lot. Hikers on the trail today were Margaret and Jack Callahan, Nicka Boone, James Carroll, Doug Lynch, Sue Robinson, Pat Whitmore, Leslie Auriemmo, Linda Crider, and Sharon Royal. • Kelly Ducham



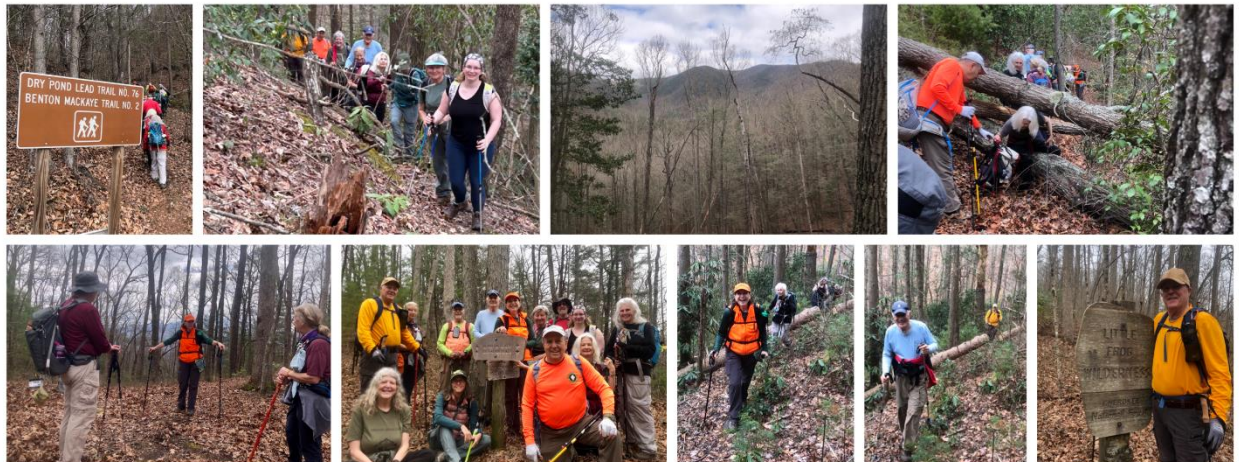
CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL MARCH 3, 2024



Six Hill Walkers—Nicka Boone, Kelly Ducham, Sharon Royal, Charlene Sudore, Carin Taber, and Hike Leader Judy Price—met at Cleveland State Community College to hike the Nature Trail. Before we started, a baseball from the ball fields was hit into our parking lot and Kelly valiantly retrieved and returned it. (So, be careful if you park there!) This multi-use trail is no longer marked and currently is covered in leaves; however, the college and a subdivision border it so it is not in wilderness. Beware of private property though. We headed up the first loop to the ridge, where Nicka identified Bradford pear blooming. We made the loop and headed south to complete the lower loop. We began our uphill push to the top of the ridge near the cell towers, where we could see the blue mountains in the distance. We continued downhill, re-walked our first loop in the opposite direction, and saw a blue violet—the first spring wildflower of our hike! We ended up hiking two miles. Short but sweet! • Judy Price



ROCK CREEK TRAIL | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST MARCH 4, 2024

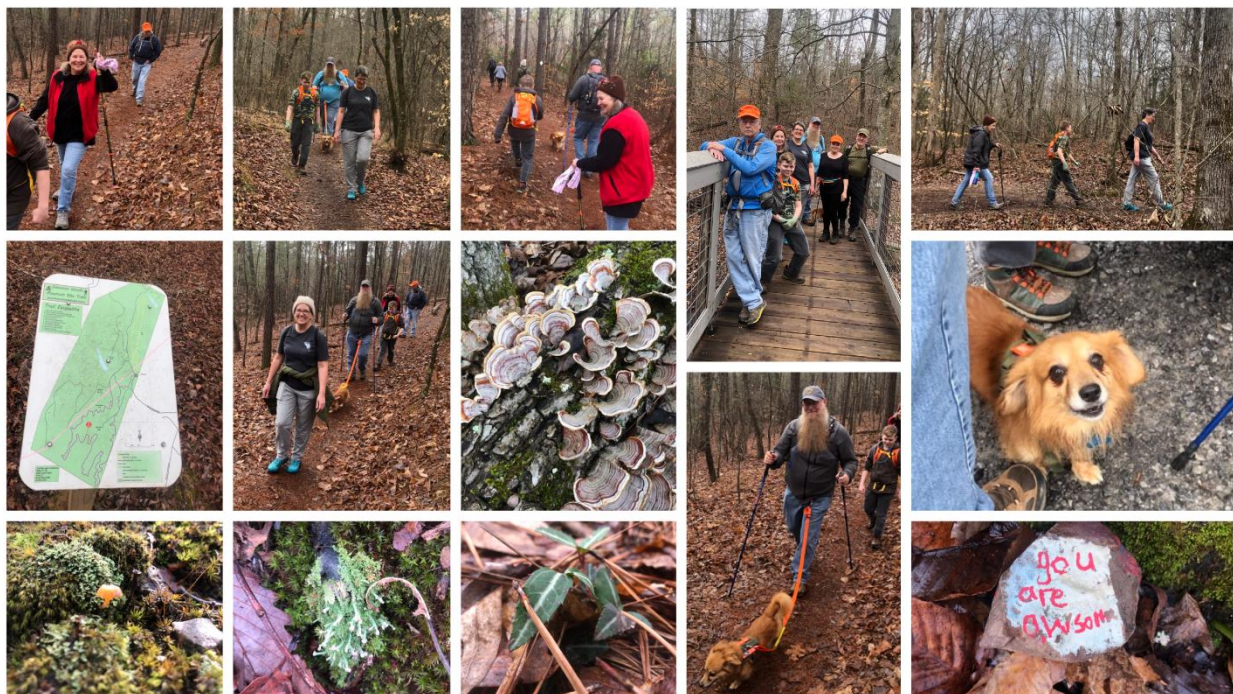




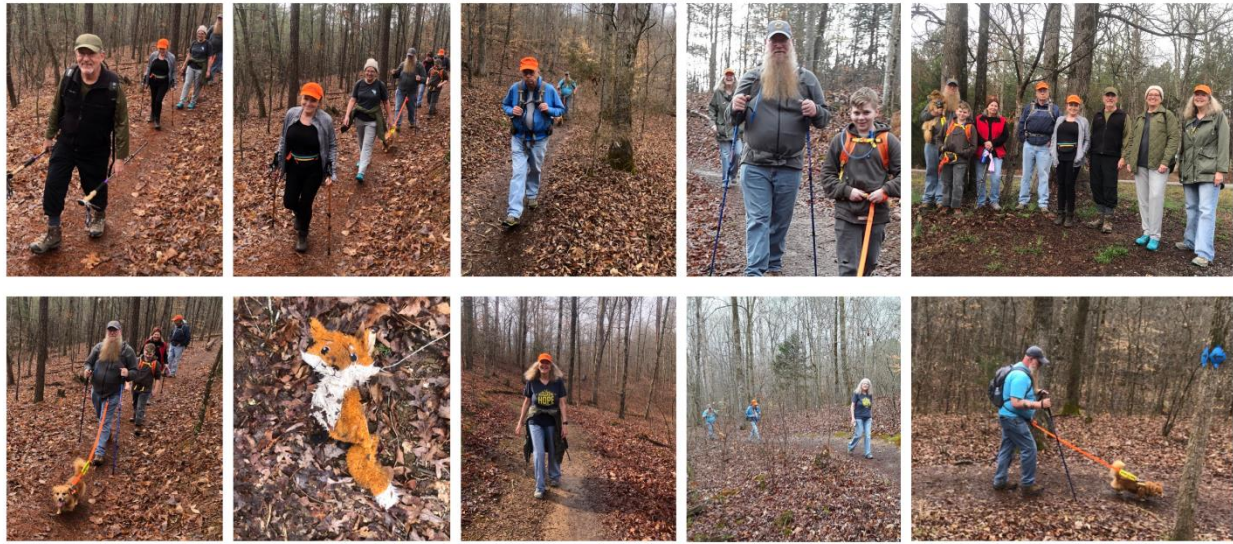
On our eight-mile hike with Benton MacKaye Trail Association and Cherokee Hiking Club members, plus one guest, we went through Benton MacKaye Trail Section 12a and turned east on the Rock Creek Trail. On our hike, we saw plenty of frog eggs, a couple salamanders, tremendous views, and some not-quite-ready-to-bloom mountain laurel. One hiker, Mike Pilvensky, found deer antlers! We hit slippery rocks on the creek crossings and a few blowdowns that were fun, but the trail was otherwise clear. Overall, it was a great hike with fantastic weather! Hikers were Mary Alton, Anne Anderson, Buddy Arnold, Jerry Barrow, Ken Cissna, Darcy Douglas, Kelly Ducham, Emily McFee, Mike Pilvensky, Sue Robinson, and Hike Leaders Clare and Ed Sullivan and Judy Price. • Emily McFee, Knoxville Hiker



WALK IN THE WOODS AT JOHNSTON WOODS MARCH 5, 2024



Walk in the Woods. • James Anderson

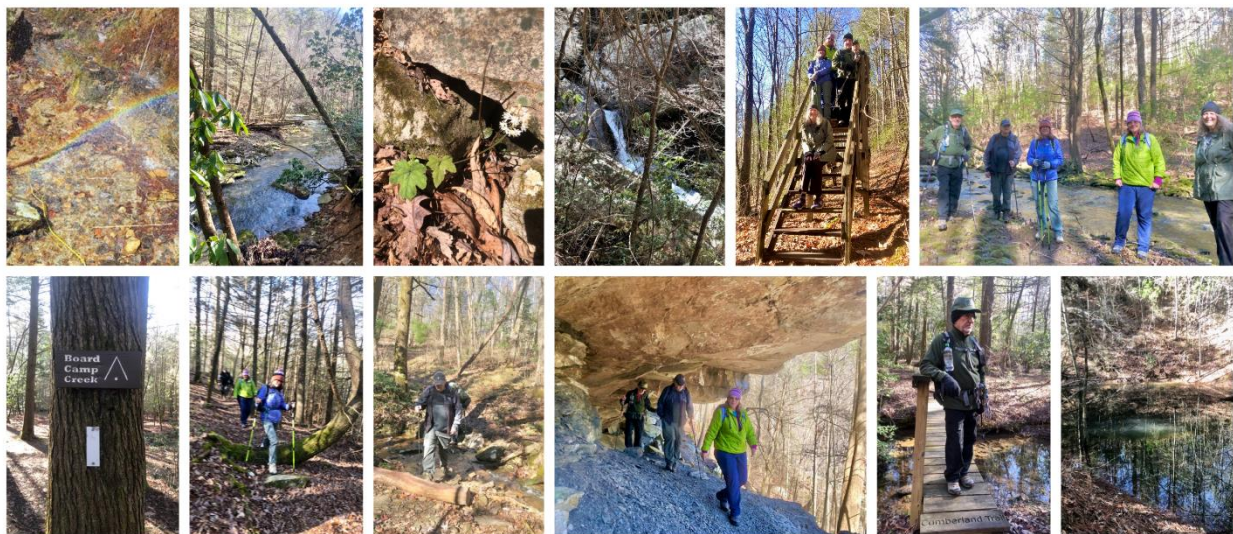


EUREKA TRAIL MARCH 7, 2024



Seven hikers set out on the Eureka Trail in Athens. It felt good to enjoy the sunshine and good company. Eureka Trail is an easy wide gravel path on a multi-use trail so there are usually plenty of walkers, bikers, as well as those riding horses out for the day. We began our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue. James Carroll and his pup Hades, Ginger Pippenger, Lucia Case, Jill Davis, Charlene Sudore, and Linda Crider, joined Hike Leader Kelly Ducham for a six-mile out-and-back walk. • Kelly Ducham

SODDY CREEK GORGE SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL MARCH 10, 2024





Taking part in the almost nine-mile Soddy Creek adventure this day were James Anderson, Kelly Ducham, Henry Mahler, Jennifer Schroll, and Hike Leader Judy Price. We had an unusual start to our hike on a chilly but clear day with an almost one-mile road walk from Heiss Mountain Road Trailhead to a TN 111 off-ramp! After getting on-trail and hiking by the highway awhile, we finally rock-hopped a little creek and entered an area with rock walls.



We went over a giant stile and had a very pleasant hike alongside beautiful Boardcamp Creek, rock-hopping more streams along the way. When we crossed the bridge at the campsite, we could hear a barred owl hooting. (Kelly told us it was saying, "Who cooks for you?") We also heard pileated woodpeckers and nuthatches. We passed the relic of an old truck by the creek and hiked on a thick carpet of pine needles along a ridge next to a former mining area and what appeared to be a sinkhole. We had a relaxing lunch at a sunny creekside campsite. Soon, we headed down a steep staircase into the breathtaking creek gorge. There were amazing waterfall-like cascades in the gorge on one side; we walked through waterfalls coming off the rock bluffs on the other side. Jennifer captured a rainbow in a photo. James pointed out that he hadn't been told he'd have a shower on the hike. We saw spring wildflowers! Blue, long-spurred, and halberd-leaved violet, toothwort, foamflower, ragwort, ground-ivy, pussytoe, vinca, and rue anemone were in bloom; trout lily and trillium were in leaf but not yet blooming. The trail led us along the bluffs to a spectacular rockhouse where we saw layers of coal in the rock walls. Next up was a gorgeous cascading branch of Boardcamp Creek which we very carefully boulder-hopped. This day's journey on the Cumberland Trail came to an end as we reached the trail to Big Soddy Creek Gulf.



We had approximately two miles to go to our cars at the Big Soddy trailhead. What a pretty walk it was! We crossed the new bridge where Boardcamp Creek flows into Big Soddy Creek. There are many blue holes along the way. There is also a waterfall! The spring peepers serenaded us as we walked. Lettie and Jim Whisman are leading a hike along this walkway in April, so be sure to join them! • Judy Price



OUTER LOOP | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK MARCH 11, 2024



Eleven hikers had an enjoyable four-mile walk at Booker T. Washington State Park. After a couple of cancellations due to poor weather, we had a lovely weather day and enjoyed the many views of the lake from the Outer Loop trail. There were some early signs of spring wildflowers and plenty of birds chirping in the trees. Leslie Auriemmo, Bob Dornfeld, Nicka Boone, James and Connor Carroll, Lettie and Jim Whisman, Jill Davis, Jan Wyant, and LaShon Kidd all joined Hike Leader Kelly Ducham on the trail. • Kelly Ducham



PROJECT CHIMPS MARCH 12, 2023



All the hikers on the Project Chimps tour felt the staff and volunteers at Project Chimps are certainly making the lives of the 95 chimps much better than when they were used for medical research. Our day was exciting and educational. After an informative tour around the six villas holding the chimp families, we got to launch lunch to the Chateau B family in the habitat. Chimps enjoyed zucchini, cabbage, and broccoli launched by hikers from the Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) and the Cherokee Hiking Club. A contribution of \$755 was made to Project Chimps for this unique experience. With an academic mind of a 11-to-12-year-old, strength of seven-to-eight humans, and the emotional development of a three-to-to-four-year-old child, life has its daily ups and downs. Staff, volunteers, and visitors are very cautious. We enjoyed the lovely 2.5-mile Yellow Hiking Trail at Project Chimps. Hearing the hoots and pants of the chimps make it a very distinguished trail. • Clare Sullivan



MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MARCH 14, 2024

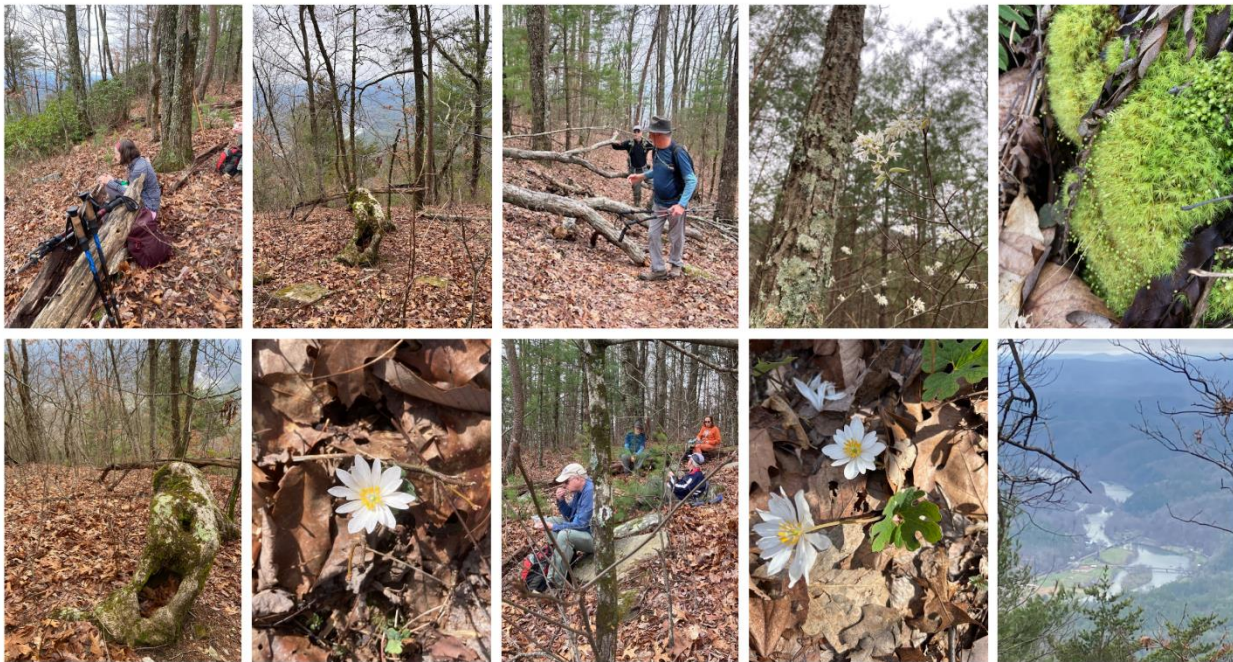


The club met at the Etowah Senior Center and began the meeting with a tasty potluck meal and many pies, in celebration of Pi Day. There were pecan, chocolate, cherry, and many more. And, as a special treat, Phyllis made a dish of haggis, a favorite in Scotland. After a brief business meeting, the floor was turned over to Phyllis and James Anderson, who gave an excellent presentation on their trip to England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. The slide show was very professionally organized, and James and Phyllis gave great descriptions of the sites they visited. Phyllis handled the door prize, which was a scone mix to complement the tour of theirs. The meeting concluded around 8 pm. • Jack Callahan

BUSHWHACK TO LOWRY TOP MARCH 16, 2024



The Stalwart Seven met at the Quinn Springs Trailhead and made the four-mile hike up to Lowry Top. The hike involves about 1800-foot elevation gain and several sections of bushwhacking to reach the overlook. At the overlook, the group had lunch and enjoyed the view, although it was a bit hazy. On a clear day, there are many mountain peaks visible. The downtown area of Reliance is obvious, with the bridges, buildings, and Hiwassee River. Afterwards, the group made the easy downhill hike back to the parking lot. The total mileage was eight miles, in 5.5 hours. The bloodroot and *Antennaria neglecta*, which resembles tiny cats' feet, were in early bloom. A patch of apple moss was also seen. The Stalwart Seven included Clare Sullivan, Otis Pannell, Jennifer Schroll, Janet and Rob Coombs, Randy Morris, and Event Leader Jack Callahan. • Jack Callahan



CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL MARCH 17, 2024



We had a wonderful St. Paddy's Day hike in green on the Nature Trail! The weather was warm and overcast. Wildflowers were starting to bloom—blue violets and wood sorrel (shamrocks!). A pileated woodpecker yelled at us and Kelly wondered if we were close to its nest. On the upper ridge, we got what may be our last look until winter of the mountains in the distance. We hiked approximately two miles. Hikers were Phyllis Anderson, Kelly Ducham, Carin Taber, and Hike Leader Judy Price. • Judy Price



CANEY CREEK VILLAGE MARCH 18, 2024





Caney Creek is Always an Exciting Hike! Hiking down to the extinct village of Caney Creek on the beautiful Ocoee River in the Cherokee National Forest always brings amazement to the eyes of hikers. Perhaps our most interesting photo this year was of the remains of one of the fishing ponds near the foundation of a supervisor's home. The fishing pond had a beautiful rock covered with new foliage and was full of frog eggs. The pole for the net on the tennis court was standing tall as were many other remains. Brushing aside some leaves, we found evidence of the century-old sidewalk. We enjoyed seeing new spring dwarf irises, star chickweed, and hepatica. Once again, the hike had lots of challenges since the trail was cleared in January and there have been lots of gusty winds since then. Hikers were David LaBine, Sharon Royal, Hike Leader Clare Sullivan, Irene Hall, and Doug Lynch. Additional photos David Labine. • Clare Sullivan



CHILDERS CREEK TO BIG BEND | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST MARCH 21, 2024

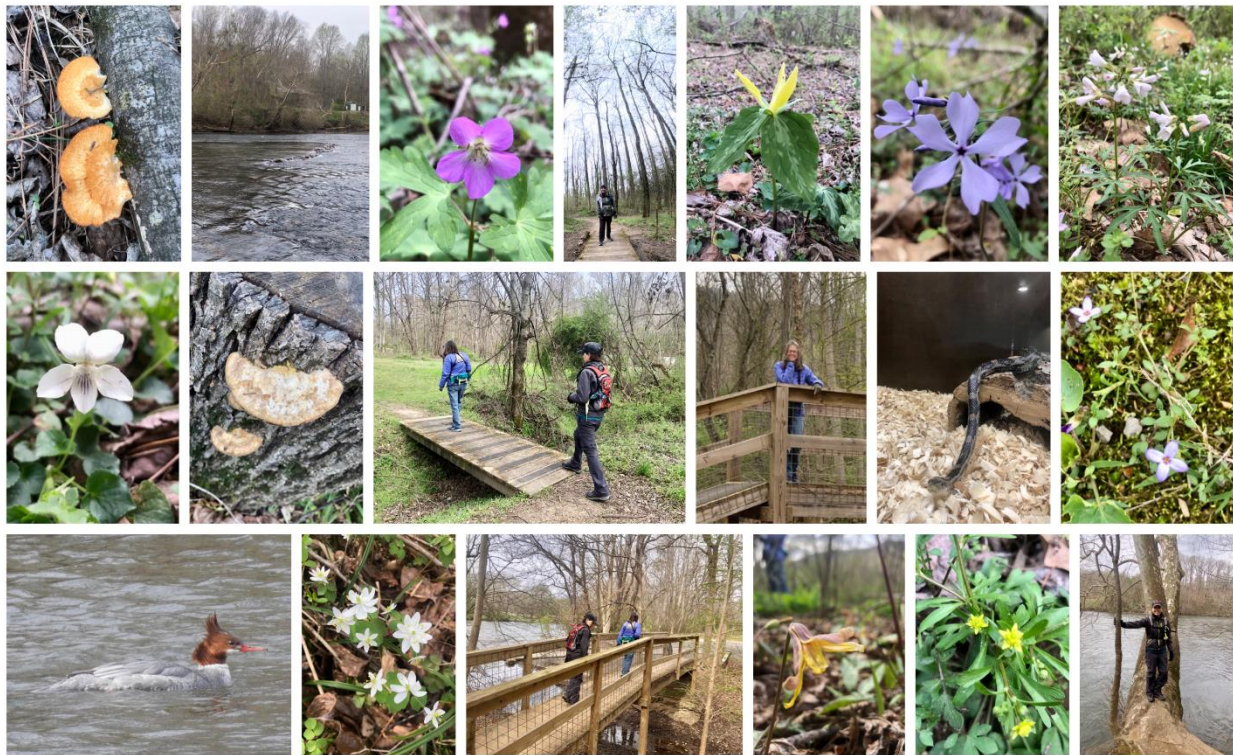


Well, the day started out smoky, as the Forest Service had conducted a prescribed burn in the Narrows area of the Hiwassee the day before; but the smoke quickly cleared out, and it became a perfect day for hiking. The wildflowers are definitely starting to bloom along the Hiwassee, and we should see more in the next couple of weeks. There are a few trees down along the trail but nothing that was not easy to go around, over, or under. We had a pleasant lunch at Big Bend before we started our three-mile trek back to Childers Creek. All in all, a beautiful day and a pleasant six-mile hike! • Leslie Auriemmo

LOOP TRAIL | HIWASSEE OCOEE RIVERS STATE PARK MARCH 25, 2024



Three hikers—Charlene Sudore and Hiker Leaders Kelly Ducham and Judy Price—did a wildflower hike on the Loop Trail despite a wind advisory. We had planned to hike Gee Creek Trail in Cherokee National Forest also, but a reliable source (Carin Taber—thank you!) warned us that a portion of Gee Creek Road was flooded. The redbud trees around the parking lot were a riot of pink. Many wildflowers were still closed when we started the trail since it was chilly and overcast; fortunately, the blooms were open as we finished. The star of the day was the Virginia bluebell! Its blue, pink, and white flowers were simply magnificent. We also saw trout lily, spring beauty, ground-ivy, blue phlox (another stunner!), rue anemone, ragwort, yellow wakerobin trillium (always gorgeous!), cut-leaved toothwort, small buttercup, bluet, wild geranium, blue violet, cream or white violet, and mayapple (with the flowers starting to form). Bloodroot leaves were up but it had already bloomed.



Kelly had been birding prior to the hike and had spotted some mergansers on the Hiwassee River. We began hiking and when we reached the spot, she pointed the birds out and got great camera shots of a male and female floating downriver. We were able to see the ancient weir at the Gee Creek Campground put-in. We had almost completed the loop when one of the hike leaders, who shall remain nameless but whose name rhymes with Trudy Rice, discovered she had left her trekking pole somewhere on the trail. Charlene and Kelly suggested we retrace our steps to try to find it and we ended up doing the trail about three times for a total of over three miles. On the way out, Kelly noticed a sleeping bee. We reported the missing trekking pole to the Visitor Center Lost and Found. While in the center, we paid a visit to the resident corn snake. Thus, our hike concluded. • Judy Price



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



We had a great turnout at breakfast. Thanks to all who came. And thanks to Jennifer Schroll for taking our photo! • 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.

WILDFLOWER HIKE IN NO NAME FALLS AREA

APRIL 2, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Meet at Clemmer Trailhead off Highway 30 just north of Parksville Lake at 10 am. Approximately 2.5 miles easy walk on a short loop to view the wildflowers along the creek. Bring water and a lunch or snacks. Text Event Leader Ruth Pannell at 423-506-9623 if you plan to attend.

GUIDED TOUR OF FORT LOUDOUN STATE HISTORIC PARK

APRIL 4, 2024 | THURSDAY

Meet at the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center at 9:30 am to get signed in and join our tour guide at 10:00 am. We will get a guided tour of the museum, with a video, then walk about 1.2 miles total as we are guided around the old fort site. The tour will last about two hours depending on the interest and questions asked. For lunch we can eat at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore or try a restaurant in Lenoir City. To carpool from Cleveland, and/or if you plan to attend the event, text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

APRIL 5, 2024 | FRIDAY

Rescheduled from March 26. Meet at McDonald's parking lot in Spring City, TN, at 9:30 am to carpool to the trailhead. Approximately nine moderate miles with 1600-foot elevation gain. There are enormous rock formations, a cave, a spring house, and a great view at the top. Text Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend. • Sue Robinson

WARDEN FIELDS | JEFFREY HISTORICAL HIKE

APRIL 6, 2024 | SATURDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN Pages 74, 82

Meet at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center at 10 am. About three miles round trip, easy. Chris Hollinghead has once again volunteered to lead us on another historical hike similar to the hike he led a few years back to his relatives' homestead at Rocky Flats. This time, the hike will be to the Warden Fields area, AKA the Jeffrey Community. This is an easy hike with no significant creek crossings. Around the turn of the century, the Jeffrey area was established as a logging camp of the Babcock Lumber Company for bringing in all the logs from the Citico watershed for transport to the Vonore area along the Little Tennessee River. After that, the area was bought by the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) and was incorporated into the Cherokee National Forest. There once was a warden's cabin in the area, thus the name given to the area in USFS days. Chris will lead us to all the remains in the area and speak to us about the history of the area. Chris is the Drama and English Lit teacher at Tellico Plains High School and is a sports coach. He previously wrote a book on the stories gleaned from his relatives who grew up in the mountains (*Papaw's Tales*) and will soon be publishing a book on the Babcock Lumber Company. This should be a great hike full of local history and one you should not miss. Contact Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at HarrisRI@aol.com.

BUGGYTOP CAVE AND SHAKERAG HOLLOW

APRIL 9, 2024 | MONDAY | SEWANEE TN

Meet at the Park and Ride commuter parking in Cleveland at I-75 Exit 25/Highway 60 at 8:30 am to carpool. First, we will hike to Buggytop Cave entrance, about a four-mile round trip, moderate hike with lots of rock formations. Completing that hike, we will have lunch at the student cafeteria at the University of the South. Then, we will move on to the wildflower hike on Shakerag Hollow on the east end of the campus. This hike is about three miles, with a couple of short sections of steep grade. Lucia Case has a contact if anyone would like to stay at a B&B overnight in Sewanee before or after the day's event. Text Event Leaders Lucia Case at 404-210-9634 or Anne Anderson at 423-284-7032 if you plan to attend.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

APRIL 11, 2024 | 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 **Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)** by Jack Callahan.

SODDY CREEK GORGE (SOUTH) SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

APRIL 13, 2024 | SATURDAY

This is the second part of our three-part Soddy Creek Gorge hike. Little Soddy Trailhead to Mowbray Pike Trailhead. Five miles, moderate, elevation change 450 feet. We will hike through a historic mining area, along a ridge with beautiful views, and past other remarkable sights. There are some seasonal creek/drainage crossings. There is a three-mile shuttle and we will need at least one volunteer driver. Bring food and water; wear appropriate hiking footwear and bring rain gear if necessary; and carry trekking poles. Contact Hike Leader Judy Price at cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com for meetup details.

FLATS MOUNTAIN TRAIL

APRIL 15, 2024 | MONDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN Pages 68, 76

Moderate, 6.2 miles with shuttle. Flats Mountain overlooks the Indian Boundary Recreation Area. We will leave shuttle vehicles at the bottom at Beehouse Gap on Citico Creek Road, then drive to Eagle Gap at Mile 18.4 on the Cherochala Skyway. The trail is for the most part downhill, but we will start out with a climb on an old road to the top of Flats Mountain. There is also another climb about halfway through the hike. After the hike, we will retrieve our vehicles at Eagle Gap on the Skyway. The central part of the trail is often brushy with blackberry bushes, so wear long pants. We will eat lunch about mile 3 on the hike in an unnamed gap. Text Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

BIG SODDY CREEK GULF TRAIL

APRIL 16, 2024 | TUESDAY | SODDY-DAISY TN

Meet at Dollar Tree (the former Fresh 'n' Low) on Georgetown Road in Cleveland at 10 am to carpool to site. Big Soddy Creek Gulf Trail in Soddy-Daisy is considered part of the Jim Adams Wilderness Walkway. Out and back is about four miles on the wide trail. The trail is basically wide and easy along the creek with the waterfall right on the trail. There is an option for a steeper area at the end of the primary trail. There are a number of swimming holes or wading areas along the way. It can be really pretty when wildflowers are out. It is a well-used pathway and always a pleasant walk. Text Event Leaders Lettie and Jim Whisman at 812-779-6274 if you plan to attend.

COKE OVENS AND MUSEUM

APRIL 20, 2024 | SATURDAY | DUNLAP TN

The museum opens at 10 am. It is constructed in the design of the original company structure that was there during the height of the operation. It is filled with hundreds of artifacts of the period which give a history of the operation of the coal mines and the ovens. There are the remains of some 285 coke ovens on the site, and many are in almost original condition and are an easy walk to see and observe. We will spend about two hours at the historic site, then drive about five or six miles to the Cookie Jar Café for lunch. If you plan to attend, text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

TOUR OF NEW ECHOTA STATE HISTORIC PARK

APRIL 23, 2024 | TUESDAY | CALHOUN GA

Meet at the parking lot in front of the Visitor Center at 9:45 am. There will be a small fee for the tour. The tour begins at 10 am in the Visitor Center with the viewing of a short video. We then will be guided outside to the many period buildings on site. New Echota was the capital of the Cherokee Nation for several years in the 1830s prior to the Removal. The tour will last about two hours and will be about one mile of easy walking. After the tour, we will have a picnic lunch on site. Bring your lunch and water or soft drinks. For anyone wanting to carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Park and Ride commuter parking at I-75 Exit 25 and Highway 60 at 8:30 am. Text Event Leader Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

CAMPOUT AND HIKES FROM STANDING INDIAN CAMPGROUND

APRIL 29 - MAY 3, 2024 | MONDAY - FRIDAY | FRANKLIN NC

This is a very nice campground. It has showers in the regular camping areas, and restrooms in the group areas. For now, I have reserved regular Sites 61 and 62. Site 61 is a single site and we can have up to five people there and two vehicles. Site 62 is a double site and we can have up to 10 people and four vehicles. These are the club members that have indicated they will likely attend: Sue Robinson, Bruce Lee, James Anderson, Jack Callahan (2), Charlie Snow, Sandra Fenton, Michelle Ritter, Marti Owensby (2?), Jennifer Schroll, and me (total of 11). Jack made a reservation for a site, so the two sites I have should be enough for the current group. We can add more and get another site or a group site if desired. If folks are interested in going together for group meals in the evenings, let me know. You will need to bring food for your breakfasts and lunches. I put together a list of possible hikes for the group. I have options each day for those that may want something less strenuous (see below). There are many hikes in the area, so if you have other suggestions, let me know.

I attached a copy of a map [at the end of the Upcoming Events section] showing the general area with the Appalachian Trail (AT) shown on the map in orange.

- Day 1, April 29
 - Arrive at campground and set up camp. Check-in is at 2:00 pm.
 - Do a shorter hike in the campground vicinity, possibly Kimsey Creek. Note: This is a relatively easy hike with about 200 feet elevation gain the first 2 miles. There is a nice view of the stream, but there will be at some point some wet areas. So, plan to have waterproof shoes, water shoes, or a change of socks ready.

- Day 2, April 30, Standing Indian Mountain Hike or Option for Park Creek Loop
 - Option 1: 9:00 am drive about eight miles to Deep Gap on AT via Hwy 64 and Forest Road 71. Park at Deep Gap on AT. Hike 2.7 miles to Standing Indian Mountain and return (5.4 miles total), about 1000 feet elevation gain. Rated strenuous due to elevation gain. Nice trail and well-graded without too many very steep sections. Water available to treat or filter about one mile in near Standing Indian Shelter. Wonderful view on top. For those that want to hike more, you could return to the campground via the Kimsey Creek Trail, another about 3.6 miles.
 - Option 2 for those wanting a less strenuous hike: Park Creek Trail. About 5.5-mile loop trail near campground. This hike has only about 300 feet elevation gain. Does not have overlooks but nice views of the stream. Recent reviews have noted one large down tree and possibly some smaller trees to work around. Some have noted the trail was hard to follow in spots, so use of GPS device recommended. Probably should wear long pants.

- Day 3, May 1, Albert Mountain, Two Possible Routes
 - Option 1: 9:00 am, hike via Blackwell Gap Trail to AT, 1.8 miles, about 500 feet elevation gain. On AT, go south 3.1 miles to Albert Mountain, about 750 feet elevation gain, last 0.5 miles steep, 1250 feet total elevation gain for the hike. Return mostly downhill, total hike about 8.8 miles. Water available at Long Branch Shelter about half way out. Views at top wonderful. Rated strenuous.
 - Option 2: 9:00am. Drive about two miles to Bear Pen Gap trailhead. Hike about three miles to Albert Mountain, about 350 feet elevation gain. Return, total hike six miles. Last 0.3 miles very steep. Rated moderate. Note: There is another option to drive to a parking area and just hike 0.3 miles to top.

- Day 4, May 2, Two AT Hikes from Winding Stair Gap, One south, One north
 - Option 1: Northbound Hike to Silar Bald. Drive about eight miles to Winding Stair Gap, Hwy 64. Hike north on AT for 4.3 miles to turnoff to Silar Bald, about 0.2 to top. About 1500 feet elevation gain total. Return to Winding Stair Gap. 8.9 miles total. Rated strenuous. Great views on top of bald. Last time I did this hike, trail up to the bald was somewhat overgrown, so long pants recommended. Water available along the trail.
 - Option 2: Leave shuttle vehicle at Rock Gap. Drive to Winding Stair Gap. Hike south on AT 3.6 miles south to Rock Gap 3.6 miles, elevation gain about 500 feet. A longer option would be to hike another 2.5 miles to Glassmine Gap and then 1.7 back to Campground, adding about 4.2 with about another 500 feet elevation gain (about 7.8 miles total, about 1000 feet elevation gain), no shuttle required if using the longer route.

- Day 5, May 3
 - Break camp and return or do other hikes if desired. Check out at campground required by 11:00 am.

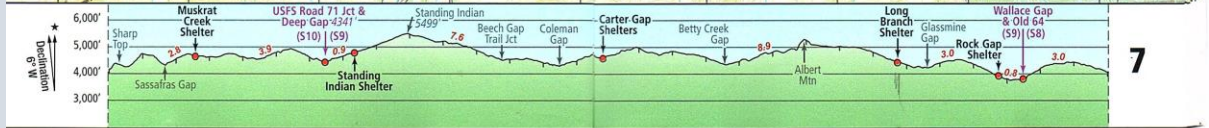
Contact Event Leader Buddy Arnold at we_arnold@outlook.com or 601-415-3551 for more information or to sign up for the event.

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.

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

[TELLICO/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 sites. Trail maintenance is held the second Saturday of the month.

[SWING INTO SPRING](#)

APRIL 6, 2024 | OLD MCDONALD FARM | SALE CREEK TN

[CHATTANOOGA OUTDOOR FESTIVAL](#)

APRIL 6, 2024 | CHOO CHOO GARDENS

[SITTONS CAVE WILD CAVE ADVENTURES](#)

APRIL 6, 7, 14, 27, 28, 2024 | CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

[ANNUAL SPRING NATURE RALLY](#)

APRIL 12 - 13, 2024 | STANDING STONE STATE PARK

[WILDFLOWERS AND WONDERS ART AUCTION](#)

APRIL 13, 2024 | DAYTON TN

[AMERICAN CHESTNUT FOUNDATION CHESTNUT CHAT—GROWING CHESTNUTS](#)

APRIL 19, 2024

[TRAILS & TRILLIUMS](#)

APRIL 19 - 21, 2024 | BEERSHEBA SPRINGS TN

[GEORGIA MOUNTAIN TRAIL FEST](#)

APRIL 20, 2024 | ELLIJAY GA

[SAVE OUR SMOKIES GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS SPRING CLEAN](#)

APRIL 20, 2024 | GSMNP

[CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE](#)

APRIL 26 - 27, 2024 | PINEY RIVER SECTION

[POLK COUNTY RAMP TRAMP FESTIVAL](#)

APRIL 26 - 27, 2024

[BALLPLAY-TELLICO RURITAN CLUB RAMP FESTIVAL](#)

APRIL 27, 2024

[BLUE RIDGE TROUT & OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FESTIVAL](#)

APRIL 27, 2024

[SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE](#)

MAY 1 - 4, 2024 | GSMNP

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

MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting
February 8, 2024 6 pm
Etowah Senior Center

Meeting was called to order at 6 pm. The minutes of the November 2023 meeting were discussed and approved as written. We will give the Treasurer's Report in March. The past month's events were discussed, and the upcoming month's events were also covered. There was a brief discussion about rack cards and we will hold a vote in an upcoming meeting after more discussion. The meeting was then turned over to Clare Sullivan, who gave an informative presentation on the Benton MacKaye Trail.

The March meeting will be held at the Etowah Senior Center, with Phyllis and James Anderson giving a presentation on their trip to Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary

MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting
March 14, 2024 6 pm
Etowah Senior Center

Meeting was called to order at 6 pm. Treasurer Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report, and it was approved by the members. The current balance is \$3,313.00. The past month's events were discussed, and the upcoming month's events were also covered. The meeting was then turned over to Phyllis and James Anderson, who gave an excellent slide presentation on their trip to the British Isles.

The April meeting will be held at the Charleston City Park pavilion, with Jack Callahan giving a presentation on the CCC and its contribution to the campgrounds and trails, with emphasis on our local area.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary