

PLEASE CONTACT JACK CALLAHAN ASAP AT jackn1945@bellsouth.net IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE MAY CLUB MEETING AT MCKAMY LAKE PICNIC AREA IN CHILHOWEE RECREATION AREA SO HE CAN GET A HEAD COUNT!

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We are all saddened by the passing of Mr. Leon Bates, a long-time club member and a fantastic Hike Leader. Leon was extremely knowledgeable and was a great teacher of plants, wildflowers, and fungi, just to mention a few. Leon was always willing to share information about the items growing along the trails and was extremely patient with the flood of questions he would receive. He enlightened us all and inspired us all to learn more and to enjoy the many gifts that the outdoors provides for us. He and his lovely wife Pat opened their home on many occasions for club meetings and were always gracious hosts. Leon was a wonderful man, and I will miss him.

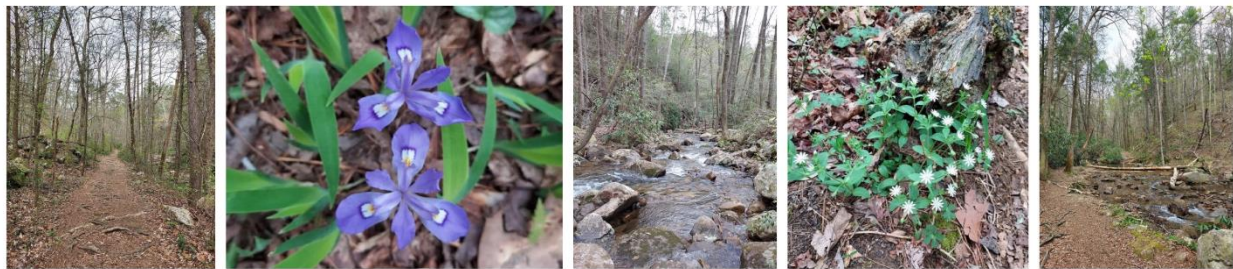
Jack Callahan, Club President

PAST EVENTS

WILDFLOWER HIKE IN NO NAME FALLS AREA APRIL 2, 2024



Hikers were Nicka Boone, Deborah Burroughs, and Hike Leader Ruth Pannell. Deborah provided the wildflower identifications above: dwarf crested iris, Solomon's seal, yellowroot, star chickweed, false Solomon's seal, wood sorrel, *Viola hastata*, and fiddlehead. • Judy Price



GUIDED TOUR OF FORT LOUDOUN STATE HISTORIC PARK APRIL 4, 2024



We had a great tour of Fort Loudoun State Historic Park. Our guides were Ranger McGlothin and Mr. Earl Baldwin. They were very knowledgeable of the history of the fort and Mr. Baldwin is of Cherokee ancestry and has direct knowledge of many of the activities in the area. It was an excellent tour. Afterwards, we had a late lunch at Pizzeria Venti in Vonore, then some of us visited Overhill Nursery east of Vonore that specializes in native plants. • Jack Callahan

BLACK MOUNTAIN SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL APRIL 5, 2024

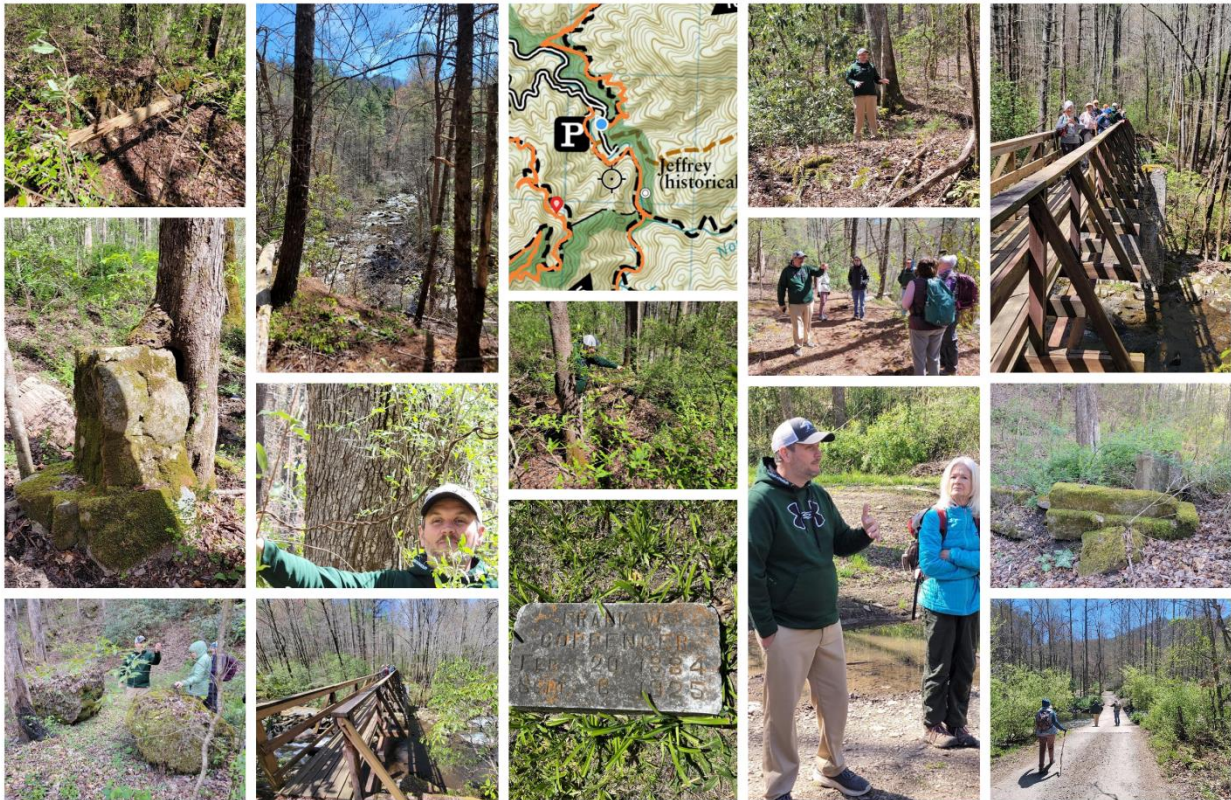


Four of us headed up the mountain on a cold and windy day. A few spring wildflowers were beginning to show including lots of trilliums not quite open yet. Temps began to warm a bit and, with the incline, we warmed up nicely. Views at the top were clear. Black Mountain never disappoints! • Sue Robinson

WARDEN FIELDS/JEFFREY HISTORICAL HIKE APRIL 6, 2024



Chris Hollinghead, who is a teacher at the Tellico Plains High School, gave us a several-hour historical tour of the Warden Fields area which was called Jeffrey, TN, with its own post office, store, school, etc. It was the site of the major logging camp in the early 1900s of the Babcock Lumber Company for the time the North and South Fork Citico Creek area was logged out. Chris took us to see the area where the clinkers were dumped and where the Shay engines were resupplied with coal and water. One of the Tellico/Citico Shays is the engine on display at Townsend, TN. Then he took us to the old school site. The school at the time was the best school in Monroe County, built and paid for by the lumber company.



Next, we went up the South Citico Trail to the area where most of the logging company residents lived as well as the site of the commissary for the camp. He also showed us the remains of the old USFS Warden's Station and the site of his grandfather's house. His grandfather was a person who measured the timber board feet before it was taken to the mill. This was a great historical hike and we all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Attending the hike were 16 folks: Chris Hollinghead, Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Gary and Barb Lewinski, Jack and Margaret Callahan, Otis Pannell, Lucia Case, Anne Anderson, Melanie Miller, Kim Luzader, Jennifer Schroll, Lettie and Jim Whisman, and Sandra Fenton. • Rick Harris



BUGGYTOP CAVE APRIL 9, 2024

Canceled due to inclement weather. Will be rescheduled. • Anne Anderson

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING APRIL 11, 2024



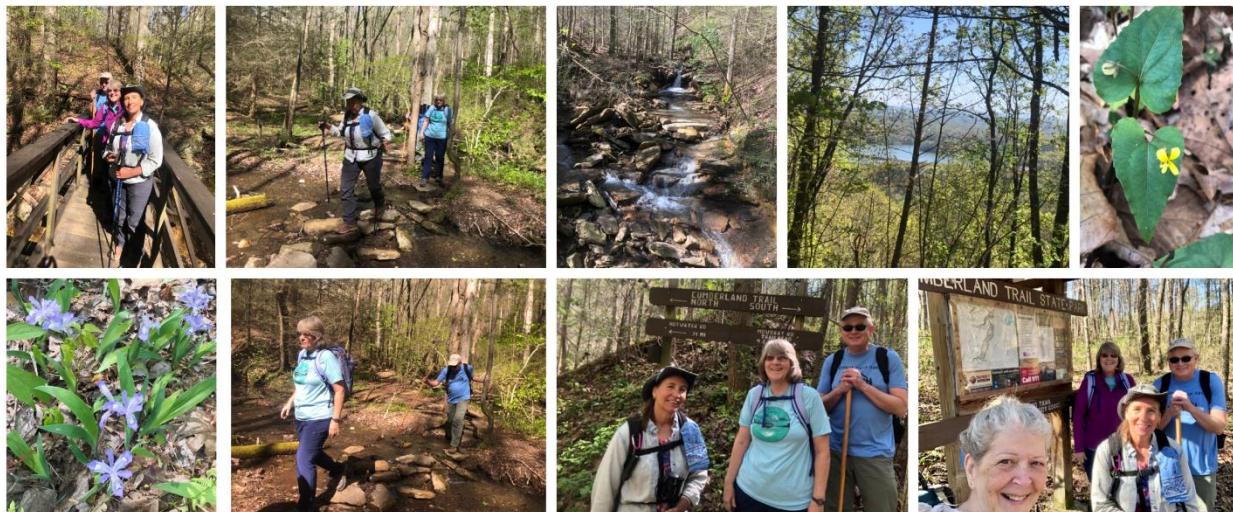
The April club meeting was held at the Charleston City Park pavilion. The weather was rainy and quite cool. The food was delicious and there were some really fantastic desserts. Due to the weather, there was no business meeting and the presentation of the CCC was limited to just the highlights. The next club meeting will be held at McKamy Lake Picnic Area in the Chilhowee Recreation Area. The club will provide hot dogs and all the fixings, including drinks. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert. We will eat at 5:00 pm. Come early and make one of several hikes in the area. There is a small parking fee charged by the Forest Service. If weather is threatening, there will be an alternate plan published. Contact Jack Callahan **ASAP** at jackn1945@bellsouth.net if you plan to attend. • Jack Callahan

FLATS MOUNTAIN TRAIL APRIL 12, 2024



Seven folks went on this hike on the Flats Mountain Trail near Tellico Plains off the Cherohala Skyway. The day started off cool but sunny; but as the day progressed, it became windy and cloudy and definitely chilly. The trail was in reasonably good shape with a few blowdowns which were easy stepovers and one walkaround. As usual, the middle section had briers, but we were able to get through them OK. There were great views down into the Citico Creek watershed and the Fodderstack ridgeline to the east, and off to the west we could see the lake at Indian Boundary and Tellico Lake in the distance. Afterwards, a few of the hikers enjoyed late lunch/early supper at the Tellico Grains bakery. The trail is moderate, but there was about 750 feet of ascent and 2400 feet of descent. Hikers included Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris, Sue Robinson, Sarah Kennedy, Doug Lynch, Leslie Auriemmo, and Jilaine Burley. • Rick Harris

SODDY CREEK GORGE (SOUTH) SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL APRIL 13, 2024



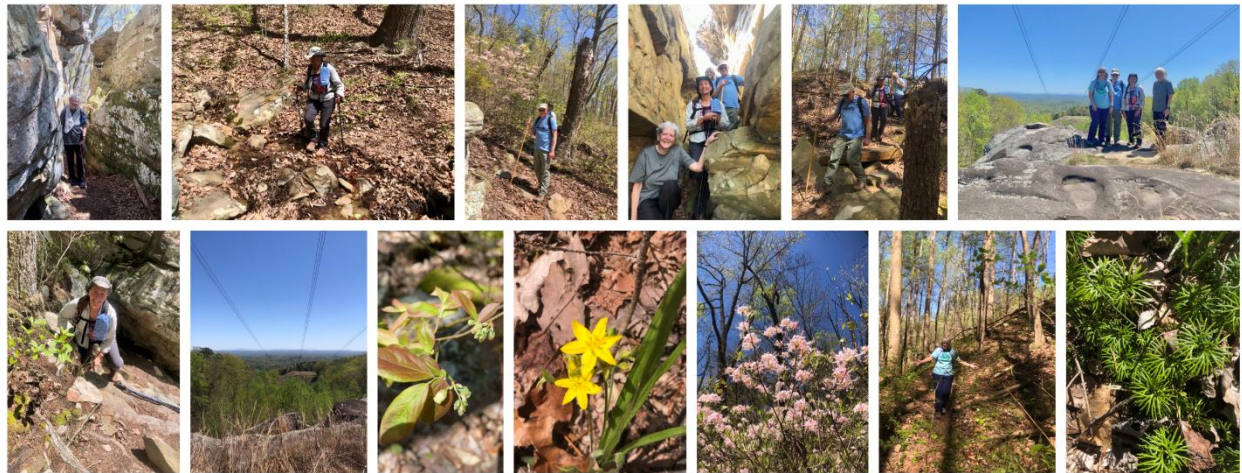
Deborah Burroughs, Randy Morris, and Jennifer Schroll joined Hike Leader Judy Price on the southern portion of the Soddy Creek Gorge Section of the Cumberland Trail. It was a perfect breezy morning but the temperature heated up by the afternoon! We began on the blue-blazed trail from Little Soddy Trailhead, crossed the bridge over cascades, and hiked through a [historic coal mining area](#) along beautiful Little Soddy Creek. We crossed many streams but they were easily rock-hopped.



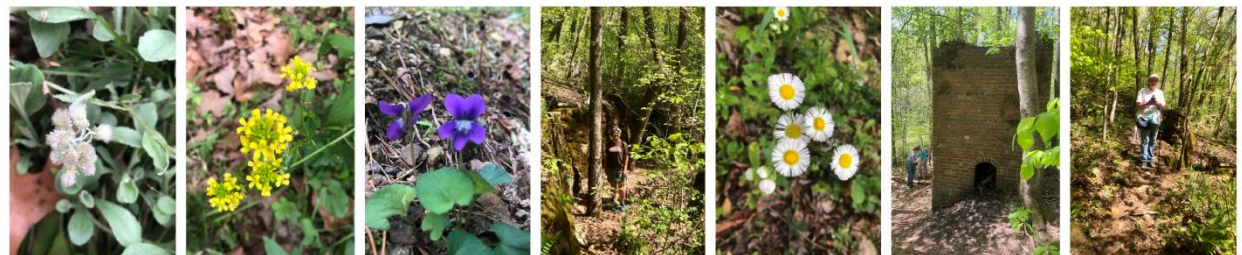
We reached the white-blazed Cumberland Trail and soon headed up to a ridge with views of Soddy Lake, Chickamauga Lake, and the Tennessee River. There was evidence of the old mining operation as we walked the ridge. The sound of the train whistle from the vale below traveled up the mountain. We saw many wildflowers and blooming trees and shrubs: dwarf crested iris, buckeye, wild geranium, sweetshrub, trillium, dogwood, Solomon's seal and false Solomon's seal, different types of violet, blueberry, bluet, ground cedar, yellow star grass, fern, foam flower, coral bell. But the absolute stars of the show were the pinxterbloom azaleas in every shade of pink growing alongside the trail!



After passing mostly sandstone, but some limestone, rock bluffs and rockhouses with caves (thanks for the identification, Jennifer!), we found ourselves passing through a stone door between the bluffs. There were many rock climbers and boulderers taking advantage of the gorgeous weather. We crossed the new bridge over a little waterfall and popped out onto a spectacular panorama with views of Daisy, Big Frog Mountain (among other mountains), and the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in the distance. Then it was a short uphill to our shuttle car at the newly-refurbished Mowbray Pike Trailhead and the end of our five-mile hike! • Judy Price

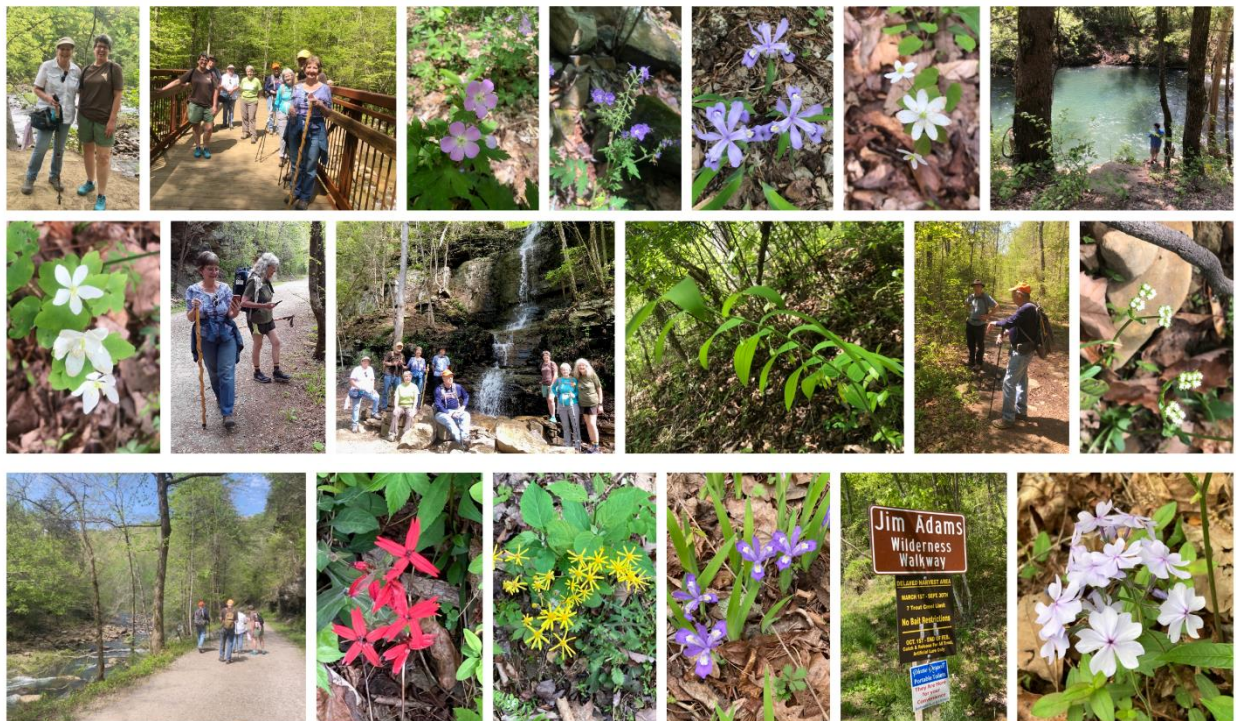


BIG SODDY CREEK GULF TRAIL APRIL 16, 2024





Nine wildflower lovers sojourned along the easy walking path of the Jim Adams Wilderness/Big Soddy Creek Gulf Trail. We reaped the benefit of a little physical exercise and lots of fun meandering. Our group covered about three miles, enjoying the waterfalls in the middle of the trail, the creek we walked alongside, as well as the woods, rocks, and of course, wildflowers! It was perfect timing to see a great variety; even Jack's pawpaw trees were producing buds! • Lettie and Jim Whisman





SHAKERAG HOLLOW APRIL 18, 2024



• Lucia Case

COKE OVENS AND MUSEUM APRIL 20, 2024



Nine folks joined up for the visit to the Coke Ovens Museum and grounds. This is a priceless nugget of history with a great amount of effort by volunteers to organize and preserve a portion of history in east Tennessee.



The mines and ovens were in operation from about 1898 to 1925. There were 256 ovens at one time and a workforce of over 300 people in the mines and at the ovens. There were even cottage industries nearby supporting the operation. One was a rockery where canaries were raised to supply the mines with birds. The things you learn!





After visiting the museum and touring the grounds, six members made the short drive to the Cookie Jar Café for a late lunch. This is a very popular place and, after a wait, we had a great lunch and desserts. The strawberry pie is worth the drive from Cleveland. Attendees included Jennifer Schroll, Judy Price, Nicka Boone, Gail and Edmond Gray, Savana Keeton and her grandmother and nine-month-old son, and Jack Callahan, Event Leader. • Jack Callahan



TOUR OF NEW ECHOTA STATE HISTORIC PARK APRIL 23, 2024



The Tenacious Ten assembled at the park and met with our guide, then watched the park video discussing the history of the Cherokee people as they organized and lived in the city. Afterwards, we began the walking tour of the structures on site. The park has 200 acres of the original town and numerous buildings, including some that are the original structures. Others are period structures that were saved from other nearby sites and reassembled on site. The park is very well-maintained, and the buildings and their contents are a great glimpse back in history of the time period. Our guide, the park Interpretive Ranger Mr. Kevin Mardell, did an excellent job of showing us the structures and letting us inside to view the period furnishings and equipment. He is extremely knowledgeable and was a treat to talk with. After the tour, the group enjoyed a picnic lunch in the park picnic area adjacent to the museum. The weather was perfect with nice temperatures and a beautiful blue sky. Club members participating were Nicka Boone, Sharon Royal, Carin Taber, Marti and Roy Owensby, Lettie and Jim Whisman, Anne Anderson, Margaret Callahan, and Event Leader Jack 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



We had a scrumptious breakfast while discussing hikes of the past! • Judy Price

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTE: Event schedule subject to change according to guidance from governing agencies and offices regarding health and safety, weather, or other conditions.

PINEY FALLS STATE NATURAL AREA | PINEY RIVER SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL

MAY 7, 2024 | TUESDAY | GRANDVIEW TN

Meet at the McDonald's in Spring City, TN, at 10 am and drive to trailhead. Hike 1.6 miles to Piney Falls, which are two large waterfalls. The trail is rocky with some short steep sections and an optional cable climb. This hike could be extended based on the group's preference by driving to another trailhead along Piney River for an out-and-back hike. Text Hike Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

HAIG MILL LAKE PARK

MAY 8, 2024 | WEDNESDAY | DALTON GA

This is a 3.5-mile walk around the lake. Rated as moderate because there are some roots and rocky areas but nothing significant in elevation or difficulty. Picnicking there would be easy enough as there's a pavilion area, but there are several really good places to eat in downtown Dalton as well. The trail at Haig Mill Lake Park in Dalton Georgia is one we discovered at the Westmore Outdoor Expo. Text Hike Leaders Lettie and Jim Whisman at 812-779-6274 if you plan to attend.

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

MAY 9, 2024 | THURSDAY | MCKAMY LAKE PICNIC AREA | CHILHOWEE RECREATION AREA | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

We will eat at 5:00 pm. But **come early** and do one of several hikes including Arbutus Trail, Benton Falls Trail, or the short walk around McKamy Lake. The club will provide hotdogs and all the fixin's for supper. Members are encouraged to bring a dessert. There is a parking fee required per vehicle. Contact Jack Callahan **ASAP** at jackn1945@bellsouth.net if you plan to attend.

STONE DOOR TO GREETER FALLS

MAY 10, 2024 | FRIDAY | SAVAGE GULF STATE PARK

Meet at the Park and Ride commuter parking at exit 25 in Cleveland, TN, at 9:00 am EDT to carpool to the trailhead, or meet at the Greeter Falls Trailhead at 10:00 am CDT. Approximately 6.5-mile moderate hike with shuttle required. Current plans are to drop a vehicle at the Greeter Falls Trailhead and drive to Stone Door Trailhead to begin hike. We will not go into the gorge at Stone Door, but stay on the Rim Trail. Text Event Leaders Marrie Lasater and Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you plan to attend.

WARRIORS PASSAGE

MAY 11, 2024 | SATURDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN Pages 40, 48

Rescheduled from May 18. With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Moderate, 6.2 miles with shuttle. We will leave vehicles at the lower trailhead on Old Furnace Road, then drive to the top of Waucheesi Bald. High clearance 4WD vehicles are recommended, especially the last half mile to the top of the bald. This hike starts at the top of Waucheesi Bald by the site of the old firetower, now communication towers, on a small bald with views into the surrounding mountains. We will hike steadily downhill for over 2300 feet with one short uphill till we reach Wildcat Creek. We will have to ford Wildcat Creek and possibly Tobe Creek (depending on water levels), so bring water shoes, extra socks, and a small towel. From Wildcat Creek, we have an uphill climb to Old Furnace Road. We will eat lunch at Tobe Creek. Text Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

GLEN FALLS TRAIL

MAY 21, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHATTANOOGA TN

A three-mile out-and-back hike with an elevation total of about 300 feet. Tentatively meeting at 10 am then having an optional lunch in Chattanooga after the hike. If you plan to attend, you **must** contact Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll at 423-284-1256 to determine the carpool location as parking is limited at the Ochs Trailhead.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE ON CHILDERS CREEK TO BIG BEND SECTION

MAY 25, 2024 | SATURDAY | 9 AM | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

Calling all CHC members!!!! Please make a note on your calendar for this trail maintenance date! That is the club work day for our Childers Creek to Big Bend section of the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT)/John Muir NRT. We will need to do some pre-summer maintenance. This will include weed-eating, lopping, and any other general maintenance of the trail. So, we will need lots of help! No experience needed. We will meet at the Big Bend parking lot at 9:00 am and divide up into various work crews. **Please make sure you contact James Anderson at 423-715-8824 to let him know you are participating so we can have enough safety equipment, etc.** The week before, James will send out a reminder email about this very important event.

TUNNEL HILL HERITAGE CENTER AND MUSEUM

MAY 30, 2024 | THURSDAY | TUNNEL HILL GA

Meet at the Food City parking lot just off the Cleveland bypass on the south side of town on McGrady Drive SE at 9:15 am to carpool to the site. Join us on a guided tour of the historic hand-dug railroad tunnel completed before the Civil War, along with the museum and several period structures including a home that was used as a field hospital. Cost is \$15 per person at this time. Text Event Leader 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

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.

SPRING WILDFLOWER PILGRIMAGE

MAY 1 - 4, 2024 | 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."

BIG BLUE BLAZE EVENT

MAY 3 - 5, 2024 | PINHOTI EXPERIENCE FOUNDATION

"We are transitioning the Pinhoti Trail in Georgia to Blue Blazes."

TELLICO TROUT FESTIVAL

MAY 4, 2024

CLEAR DAY THUNDER RESCUING THE AMERICAN CHESTNUT

MAY 4, 2024 | PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST NC

CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER DAY

MAY 10 & 11, 2024 | MORGAN CREEK SECTION

APPALACHIAN TRAIL DAYS

MAY 17 - 19, 2024 | DAMASCUS VA

2024 BARTRAM TRAIL CONFERENCE

MAY 31 - JUNE 1, 2024 | COWEE SCHOOL | FRANKLIN NC

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

MINUTES

Monthly Club Meeting
April 11, 2024 6 pm
Charleston City Park Pavilion

There was no business meeting this month due to the weather. Club meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary