

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Warm weather is upon us, especially at the lower elevations. Please take necessary precautions and stay hydrated. If you feel thirsty, you are already becoming dehydrated. Event Leaders, be sure to check everyone before hikes to ensure they have sufficient water, and take frequent breaks for folks to drink up. Keep an eye on folks who seem to be slowing down and set a pace that everyone can maintain.

We are also at the beginning of insect encounters. Ticks and chiggers are the main concern now. A great preventative against ticks is to treat clothing with permethrin. This must be done the day before a hike as the liquid should not come in contact with skin. After it dries, it is ok to wear the treated clothing. Read the instructions if you have never used it before. Ticks do not like it.

A good head net is always something to have in your pack. You may not use it often, but there are times when wearing one for a short time through gnat-infested areas will make you glad you had it.

Hikes at higher elevation will always be welcome due to the cooler temperatures.

Stay safe and look after your fellow hikers!

Jack Callahan, Club President

PAST EVENTS

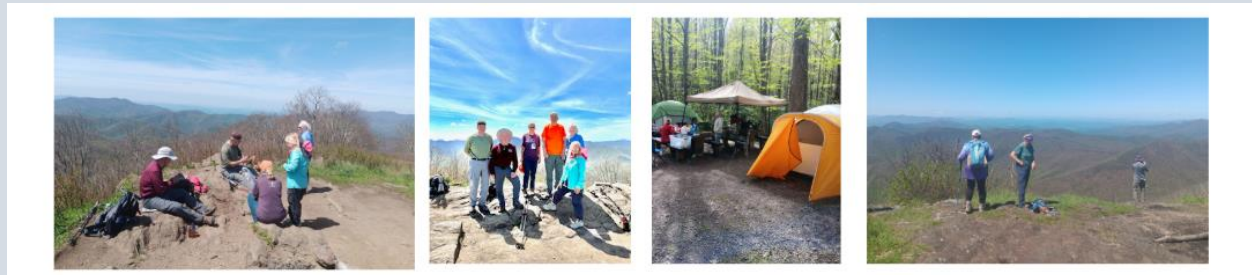
CAMPOUT AND HIKES FROM STANDING INDIAN CAMPGROUND APRIL 29 - MAY 3, 2024



Ten club members made the trip to Standing Indian Campground near Franklin, NC. This is a very nice campground near the Appalachian Trail (AT) and a number of other nice hiking trails. Those on the trip were Event Leader Buddy Arnold, Al Johnson, Bruce Lee, Michelle Ritter, James Anderson, Sandra Fenton, Sue Robinson, Jennifer Schroll, and the Evanses, new members from Georgia. We had to dodge some weather issues at the start of the week, but had two very nice days for hiking.

- Day 1
After arriving and setting up camp, several hikers (Buddy, Bruce, Charlie, and the Evanses) went on some short hikes near the campground, including portions of the AT toward Rising Stair Gap and the Park Creek Loop.
- Day 2
The first morning of hikes a light rain set in, so several people went to Franklin. Some enjoyed gem mining and lunch there. That afternoon, several hikers hiked a portion of the Kimsey Creek Trail near the campground, about four miles or so.
- Day 3
Standing Indian Mountain Hike: We had very nice weather and clear skies. We drove about 10 miles to Deep Gap on the AT via Hwy 64 and Forest Road 71, and parked at Deep Gap on the AT. We hiked 2.7 miles to Standing Indian Mountain and returned (5.4 miles total), about 1000 feet elevation gain. This is a nice trail and well-graded without too many very steep sections. Water available to treat or filter is about one mile in near Standing Indian Shelter. There is a wonderful view on top, one of the best on the AT.
- Day 4
Siler Bald: We again had very nice clear weather for hiking. We drove about 20 miles to Wayah Gap and then headed south on the AT about 2.5 miles and went up Siler Bald. Elevation gain was about 800 feet. This is a spectacular vista with 360-degree views. That afternoon, Bruce Lee checked out some other trails in the area including Pickens Nose with a nice view and interesting rock formations. We also made a short but steep hike up Albert Mountain to see a fire tower and great vistas.

This was overall a very nice trip and the hiking club may want to consider a fall event to this area. • Buddy Arnold



PINEY FALLS STATE NATURAL AREA | PINEY RIVER TRAIL MAY 7, 2024

Canceled due to inclement weather. • Sue Robinson

HAIG MILL LAKE PARK MAY 8, 2024

Canceled due to inclement weather. • Lettie and Jim Whisman

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MAY 9, 2024



The club met at McKamy Picnic Area at Chilhowee Recreation Area beginning at around 2:00 pm for the monthly club meeting. Several members arrived and made a hike to Benton Falls, which had a tremendous volume of water flowing due to the recent rains. Several made the loop trail around the lake. As more members arrived, a coal fire was begun, and hot dogs and brats were roasted on the grill. There were many delicious items provided by members and, as always, wonderful desserts. After the meal, Jack Callahan led a short business meeting. The weather turned out beautiful, with bluebird skies and a nice breeze and temperatures in the 70's. There were numerous side conversations after the business meeting on upcoming hikes, and the early planning of several out-of-state hikes for 2025. Some of these included a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Minnesota and car camping with day hikes in the Brice Canyon-Zion National Parks area. After the cleanup, several more members made additional hikes in the area.

• Jack Callahan



STONE DOOR TO GREETER FALLS MAY 10, 2024

Canceled. • Jack Callahan

WARRIORS PASSAGE MAY 11, 2024



Mileage: 6.0 miles. Ascent: 884 feet. Descent: 2456 feet. Attendees: Hike Leaders Rick & Brenda Harris, Buddy Arnold, Terry Nadeau, Sandra Fenton, plus our dog Nahme. Five hikers and one happy dog, Nahme, hiked about six miles mostly downhill from Waucheesi Mountain to Wildcat Creek then uphill to Furnace Road. Several others had signed up but canceled for a variety of reasons.



The shuttle was long and rough due to the poor road conditions going up to Waucheesi Bald. In fact, we did not make it all the way to the bald due to the very rutted roadway. We hiked down the road a-ways to the trailhead, then started descending the mountain on a series of excellent switchbacks through deep forest.



Total Ascent	884 ft
Total Descent	2,456 ft
Min Elevation	1,381 ft
Max Elevation	3,348 ft

We ate lunch at Tobe Creek, then continued our journey down to Wildcat Creek which was thigh deep and swift but clear, even after all the recent rains of several inches. Nahme had a great time at both of the creek crossings which required us humans to don water shoes. It was an excellent day for hiking and those who canceled missed a great day of hiking.



The trail was in fairly good condition with a scattering of downed trees, but none were hard to get over. Also, a couple sections needed brushing out, but overall the trail was in very good shape.



There is a lot of history on this trail, being long ago a major thoroughfare for the Cherokees. The trail was built by Boy Scouts out of Knoxville in 1965, then was destroyed in places by arson fires, then reopened a few years ago by the Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew. Info on the trail can be found at www.warriorpassage.org. • Rick Harris



GLEN FALLS TRAIL MAY 21, 2024



Five hikers—Edmond Gray, Jack and Margaret Callahan, new club member Terry Nadeau, and Hike Leader Jennifer Schroll—hiked the Glen Falls Trail. It was a great short hike on the side of Lookout Mountain. Glen Falls is a series of small waterfalls and cascades. We had fun climbing through a rock squeeze. It is a very pretty area! Afterwards, we had a delicious lunch at the Parkway Pourhouse. • Jennifer Schroll

TRAIL MAINTENANCE MAY 25, 2024

Canceled. • James Anderson

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 nice group at breakfast! • 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.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2024 WORK DAY | YOUNG BRANCH HORSE CAMP

JUNE 1, 2024 | SATURDAY | CITICO ROAD VONORE TN

Sponsored by Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen • Tellico Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest • Cherokee Hiking Club • Benton MacKaye Trail Association • Friends of the Cherokee National Forest

Mounted and unmounted volunteers welcome to help with lopping, tread work, limbing and brushing. Bring and/or wear close-toed shoes, hat, work gloves, and water. Schedule:

- 9 am: Check in and parking lot safety talk
- 9:15 am: Move to Citico Trailhead, park at concrete bridge, and unload horses
- Lunch to follow at the campground

Please RSVP on Facebook or to sappbch@gmail.com. Contacts: Joanne Mitchell 865-250-1645 and Terri Haver 423-618-1672.

BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM | GRAND OAKS

JUNE 4, 2024 | TUESDAY | CARTERSVILLE GA

Tour the Booth Western Art Museum (admission is: adults \$13, seniors \$11). The museum has some of the most outstanding collection of western art, including several Remingtons. On display will be highlights of the Eddie Basha collection, part of the largest private collection of Western American and American Indian Art in the world. We will tour the museum from 10 am until around noon, then make the short drive to Grand Oaks for a lunch in a stunning home in Cartersville (cost about \$15 per person). To carpool from Cleveland, meet at the Food City parking lot on McGrady Drive SE in south Cleveland at 8:15 am. If you plan to attend, you must register with the Event Leader Jack Callahan by text at 423-284-7885.

WALK IN THE WOODS

JUNE 11, 2024 | TUESDAY 8 AM | JOHNSTON WOODS

The Walk in the Woods is at Johnston Woods off Hwy 11 just south of Cleveland. It consists of two loop trails and is considered easy. Hikers have the option of walking the 1.2-mile loop and then the 2.9-mile loop for a total of 4.2 miles or just one of the loops. The meetup location is the trailhead parking lot at Johnston Woods. Text Hike Leader James Anderson at 423-715-8824 if you plan to attend. These are the hike dates:

- Tuesday March 5 at 10 am
- Tuesday June 11 at 8 am
- Tuesday August 6 at 8 am
- Tuesday November 5 at 10 am

MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

JUNE 13, 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 **Friends of the Cherokee National Forest** by Leslie Auriemmo.

MOUNT LECONTE

JUNE 18, 2024 | TUESDAY | GSMNP

At 6593 feet, Mount LeConte is the highest peak completely within Tennessee and the third highest peak in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, behind Clingmans Dome and Mount Guyot. In order to hike the Alum Cave Trail, it is recommended that hikers allow seven to ten hours. Because parking at the trailhead has become extremely challenging for this hike, arriving at the trailhead at sunrise (6:18 am) is essential. To increase the likelihood of finding a parking place, we will meet at the Sugarlands Visitor Center, Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, TN, at 5:55 am and leave at 6:00 am. After the hike, those who would like to may join us for dinner at Calhoun's Restaurant in Pigeon Forge before returning home. Call or text Hike Leader Rob Coombs at 423-400-8008.

BOB BALD

JUNE 24, 2024 | MONDAY | NANTAHALA NATIONAL FOREST

Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN Pages 62, 70

Moderately difficult, seven miles round-trip with a 900-foot climb. We will park at the TN/NC state line at Beech Gap on the Cherohala Skyway. The first two miles are on an old Forest Service road with only minimal climbing. When we reach the end of the road, we will head up the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT) to Bob Bald, a climb of 900 feet and quite steep in places. Once we reach the top, we will enjoy the views and eat lunch, then head back to Beech Gap on the Skyway. Text Hike Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

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.

PLEASE NOTE: Sections 12a and 12b (which is Hwy 64—across from Thunder Rock—to Kimsey Highway) have been hard hit by the storm on May 1. The trail is virtually impenetrable and the BMTA plans to remove blowdowns and repair the tread in the Little Frog Wilderness. Contact Joe Cantwell bmtagamaintdirector@bmta.org or Nelson Ashbrook bmtatn-ncmaintdirector@bmta.org if you can [assist with trail maintenance on Saturday, June 8, 2024](#).

SITTONS CAVE WILD CAVE ADVENTURES

JUNE 1, 2, 8, 16, 29, 30, 2024 | CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK

CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE VOLUNTEER EVENT

JUNE 21 & 22, 2024 | PINEY RIVER MANAGEMENT AREA

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

MINUTES

Cherokee Hiking Club
Monthly Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2024 5:00 PM
Chilhowee Recreation Area

President Jack Callahan opened the business meeting with a big thanks to everyone for attending and bringing food and dessert items.

The minutes from February 2024, March 2024, and April 2024 were discussed and a motion was made to approve them as written. **Motion passed.**

Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$3,292.36. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's Report. **Motion passed.** Clare Sullivan provided information on the National Trails Day Work Day event on June 1 along Citico Creek. After some discussion, the members agreed that the Club would provide \$40 worth of chips and snacks for the event. Jack agreed to deliver the items.

Past and upcoming events were discussed:

Past Events

- Cleveland Greenway Walks Each Wednesday
- Third Thursday Breakfast
- March 16, 2024 Lowry Top
- March 17, 2024 CSCC Nature Trail
- March 18, 2024 Caney Creek Village
- March 21, 2024 Childers Creek to Big Bend
- March 25, 2024 Loop Trail at Hiwassee Ocoee Rivers State Park
- April 2, 2024 Wildflower Hike in The No Name Falls Area
- April 4, 2024 Guided Tour of Fort Loudoun State Historic Site
- April 5, 2024 Black Mountain (rescheduled from March 26)
- April 6, 2024 Guided Tour of Warden Fields
- April 13, 2024 Soddy Creek Gorge/Cumberland Trail
- April 15, 2024 Flats Mountain
- April 16, 2024 Big Soddy Creek Gulf
- April 9, 2024 Buggy Top (canceled)
- April 18, 2024 Shakerag Hollow
- April 20, 2024 Dunlap Coke Ovens
- April 23, 2024 New Echota State Park
- April 9 – May 3, 2024 Standing Indian Campground
- May 7, 2024 Piney Falls/Piney River (canceled)
- May 8, 2024 Haig Mill Lake Park (canceled)

Upcoming Events

- Cleveland Greenway Walks Each Wednesday
- Third Thursday Breakfast
- May 10, 2024 Stone Door to Greeter Falls (canceled)

- May 11, 2024 Warriors Passage
- May 21, 2024 Glen Falls
- May 25, 2024 Trail Maintenance
- May 30, 2024 Tunnel Hill Heritage Center and Museum
- June 4, 2024 Booth Western Art Museum
- June 1, 2024 National Trails Day Work Day
- June 11, 2024 Walk in the Woods at Johnston Woods

Lucia Case discussed the proposed trip to Jacks River (Tuesday, July 16) and covered the requirements if there was interest in the snorkeling option. This comes at a cost of \$30 per person. There will need to be a minimum of 10 people sign up. If the event is canceled due to inclement weather, it will be rescheduled, but the date may not fit everyone's schedule. There are some risks involved if you plan to attend. Contact Jack Callahan if you would like to know more about this trip.

Nominating Committee for 2025

Jack pointed out that there would be several vacancies of officers next year and there would need to be replacements for VP, Secretary, Newsletter/Social Media/Communications, and Hospitality. A committee will be convened for the search.

The next meeting will be held at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah, TN, beginning at 6:00 pm. This will be a potluck meal, followed by a presentation by Leslie Auriemmo on the Friends of The Cherokee National Forest. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Callahan, President and Secretary