

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Summer to all!

Summer heat is upon us. Take all precautions when out to pace yourself and stay hydrated. And keep an eye on your hiking partners. No one should start a hike without sufficient water. We have several hikes on the schedule for the next month. Take advantage of these events, especially the water events. They are a great way to cool off during these warm days.

The next club meeting will be held at the TVA picnic area, Sugarloaf Mountain Park, just below the Ocoee Dam No. 1 on the Ocoee River. This will be a potluck event. Bring cool foods and desserts!! We will eat at 6 pm.

Look forward to seeing you!

*Jack Callahan, Club President*

# PAST EVENTS

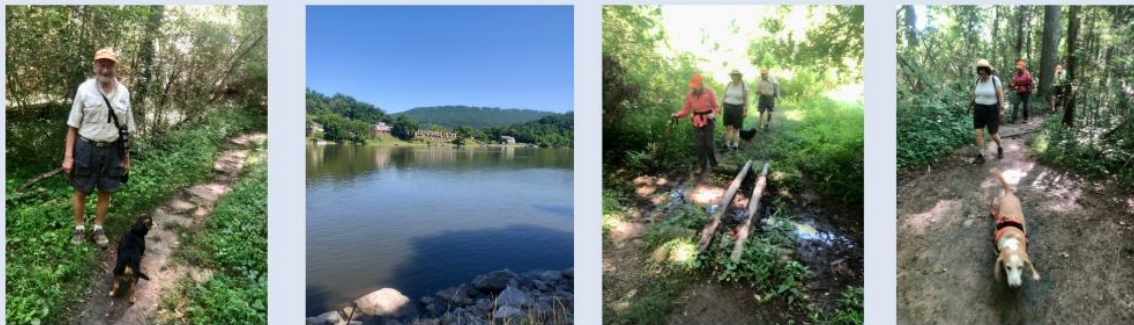
## BLUE BLAZES TRAIL | BROWN'S FERRY FEDERAL ROAD MAY 28, 2024



Five hikers—Bob Dornfeld and Smoky, Sharon Royal, visitor Delores Ladd, and Hike Leader Judy Price—met at the Blue Blazes Trailhead in Moccasin Bend National Archeological District on a gorgeous day. After an early dog incident with another hiker (everyone fortunately came out all right), we began our hike on the loop trail. The trail was muddy in places due to the recent extreme weather, but there are many boardwalks through the swampy areas. One of the aforementioned hiker's dogs (not the "incident" dog) decided we were fun to hike with and joined us.



The jewelweed was beginning to bloom, and butterflies, dragonflies, and cicadas flitted about. There were holes in the ground from the cicadas. The trail led us alongside the beautiful Tennessee River and looped back toward the trailhead through a blackberry patch. We talked about all the desserts we could make with them! We passed by the Moccasin Bend Golf Club course.



After making it back to the parking area, we hopped in our cars to drive a short way downriver to Brown's Ferry Federal Road Trailhead. This is an area rich in history, and, as such, is part of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. Along the way, we stopped to read the markers which tell of the road trace's history.



The white blooms of elderberry and wild carrot dotted the landscape. The trail meanders through woods and meadows; there is a boardwalk over a muddy area. We came out onto the final meadow and the trail was lined with buttercups. We heard a strange bird call and, with his app, Bob identified it as the call of an osprey; when we looked up, we saw an osprey nest on a platform and the osprey sitting on the nest was apparently telling us off! We walked down to the Tennessee River where we could see Brown's Ferry Landing (named for John Brown, whose tavern—the oldest standing structure in Chattanooga—is located on Browns Ferry Road). We discussed the somber events that had taken place in this spot, such as the Cherokee removal and the "Cracker Line" (food supply line) during the Civil War Battle of Brown's Ferry.



We ate lunch on benches by the river while dragonflies, bees, cicadas, butterflies, and damselflies swirled around us. Then, we headed back to our cars after an educational and enjoyable day of hiking! • Judy Price



### TUNNEL HILL HERITAGE CENTER AND MUSEUM MAY 30, 2024



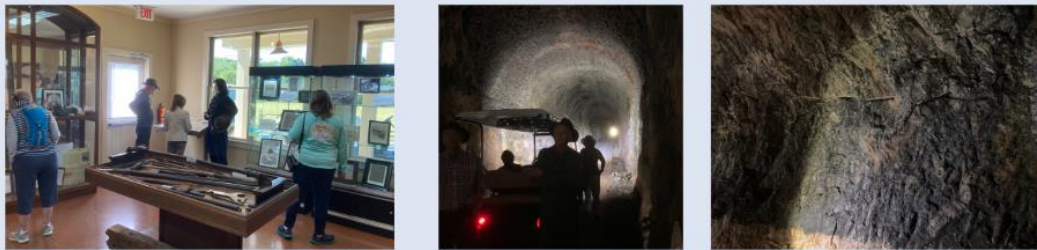
Fifteen folks joined in to make the visit of the Tunnel Hill historic site. We began with a tour of the museum, which has a great display of railroad equipment used during the time of the tunnel construction as well as many artifacts of the Civil War during that period.



From there, we rode on several extended golf carts to the reconstructed country store and post office. This structure is set up as it would have been during the 1850's. It includes a display of the way the stores of the time were organized and operated. From there, we toured the original home next door which was used during the Civil War as a headquarters office for both Major John Bell Hood and Major William Sherman (not at the same time of course). It was also used as a field hospital. During the battle in the area, Major Hood lost his leg and the leg is buried on-site with its own tombstone. Hood returned several times after the war to visit his leg's gravesite.



Then, we were taken to the tunnel—three-tenths of a mile long and all constructed by hand in the 1850's. We made several stops as we went through the tunnel: to see the changes in the wall treatments, the drill marks made by star drills, and the safety spots where persons could shelter in case of a train. We were also told about the Great Locomotive Chase and the events that took place in the area. Afterwards, we enjoyed a picnic lunch at the local city park nearby. The weather was beautiful, and the tour was very professionally done. A lot of history and interesting stories of the area were shared by our tour guides. • Jack Callahan



**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2024 WORK DAY JUNE 1, 2024**



*Writeup and photos from Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen Facebook page*

"Our SABCH National Trails Day event was a huge success. We worked on the Little Citico Horse Trails. We had 26 hardy folks who worked hard and logged 30 trees and completed some much needed brushing out. Had a wonderful meal at the Young Branch Horse Camp afterwards. A big thank you to the organizations that helped to sponsor our event: CNF - Tellico Ranger District; Cherokee Hiking Club; BMTA; and Friends of the CNF. Happy Trails Y'all!"



**BOOTH WESTERN ART MUSEUM JUNE 4, 2024**



Six club members and two visitors met up for the Booth Western Art Museum event in Cartersville, Georgia. The museum has wonderful paintings, statues, and other memorabilia of the Old West. After touring a portion of the museum, we joined a guide who gave us an excellent tour around the grounds with descriptions of the statues outside the museum. Our guide was well-informed about the artists and the artwork. He pointed out numerous details on different statues and explained how the work is graded based on its accuracy. After the tour, six of us went on to the Appalachian Grill for a nice lunch. Members included Roy and Marti Owensby, Sharon Royal, Ann Gray, Anne Anderson, and Event Leader, Jack Callahan; our guests were Judy and Tom Eubanks. • Jack Callahan



**WALK IN THE WOODS JUNE 11, 2024**



Two former club members from years ago accompanied Hiker Leader James Anderson on the Walk in the Woods hike at Johnston Woods. Along the way, the trio stopped at various locations for Tony and Pam to check on some geocaches they have deployed along the trail. All in all, it was a good day to walk and talk about the club's history. • James Anderson

**MONTHLY CLUB MEETING JUNE 13, 2024**





The club met at the Etowah Senior Center. We had an excellent turnout of 25 people and a delicious potluck supper. After the meal, there was a brief business meeting by President Jack Callahan. Then he turned the meeting over to Leslie Auriemmo, who gave a slide presentation on the **Friends of the Cherokee National Forest**. The Friends is a new group whose goals are to aid the forest through donations to accomplish work that is currently going unfunded. With the needs for fire control and suppression, funding for other areas have gone with less than adequate funds. The Friends organization will be seeking donations to help accomplish some of these priorities. Leslie is a great spokesperson for the group and is on the Board of Directors. The presentation was well done and very informative. • Jack Callahan





**BOB BALD JUNE 24, 2024**



*With Benton MacKaye Trail Association*

Today I led a hike on the Benton MacKaye Trail to Bob Bald in the Nantahala National Forest. It was a joint BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club hike. We started at the TN/NC state line, Beech Gap. Attending were Hike Leader Brenda Harris, Sue Robinson, Steve Dennison, Leslie Auriemmo, Lynne Mcphail, and Danny Yarberry. Distance seven miles. It was about 10 degrees cooler there than in Tellico Plains; the trail is mostly shaded, and there was a breeze so it was really nice. We had lunch at the Bald, enjoyed the spectacular view and the flame azaleas still in bloom! On the way down, we met a couple from Ukraine. They came to the US at the start of the war to live with their daughter who is married to an American. They gave us firsthand reports of the war there and asked for continued help from the US and prayers and/or thoughts of peace for their country and its people. • Brenda Harris



### **WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND BRADLEY GREENWAY**



Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a walk on the Cleveland Bradley Greenway. • Jack Callahan



### **THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST**

Every third Thursday the club meets at Old Fort Restaurant for 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.

## EUREKA TRAIL

**JULY 2, 2024 | TUESDAY 8:30 AM | ATHENS TN**

**JULY 8, 2024 | MONDAY 8:30 AM | ATHENS TN**

We will walk six miles out-and-back along the easy wide gravel path. This is a multi-use trail so there may be bikers or horseback riders out for the day. We will begin our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue in Athens. 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 text Hike Leader Kelly Ducham at 239-784-7337 or email at dkss2063@hotmail.com.

## FALLS BRANCH FALLS

**JULY 9, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

Moderate, 2.4 miles with a 500-foot climb out of the gorge of the falls. We will drive on the Cherohala Skyway to mile 22.5 at the West Rattlesnake Trailhead. From there, we will hike down an old roadbed for about a mile, then steeply descend into the gorge, cross the creek (usually not requiring water shoes), then hike up to the base of the falls on a difficult trail. We will eat lunch there, then return the way we came, mostly uphill. The falls are spectacular and are about 90 feet high. Text Event Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

## MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

**JULY 11, 2024 | THURSDAY 6 PM | SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN PARK | BENTON TN**

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. The club will furnish drinks, cups, and eating utensils. Event Leader is Ruth Pannell.

## KIRKLAND CREEK TRAIL

**JULY 13, 2024 | SATURDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

*Great Hikes and Backpack Trips near Tellico Plains TN Pages 56, 64*

With Benton MacKaye Trail Association. Moderate, but with 11 stream crossings, 6.7 miles. We will leave vehicles at the Bald River Road trailhead near the Holly Flats Campground, then drive a fairly long distance to Sandy Gap on the Benton MacKaye Trail (BMT). We will hike, almost all the way, downhill to the lower trailhead. At about mile 3, we reach the first stream crossing on Waucheesi Creek, then cross this creek and Kirkland Creek itself a total of 11 times. The last crossing is across the Bald River. So come prepared with water shoes, extra socks, and a towel. We will eat lunch at the campsite by the first stream crossing. Afterwards, we will have to drive the long shuttle once again to retrieve our shuttle vehicles. Text Event Leaders Rick and Brenda Harris at 513-260-1184 if you plan to attend.

## SNORKLE SWIM AND PICNIC ON THE CONASAUGA RIVER

**JULY 16, 2024 | TUESDAY | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

Meet at the MAPCO station on Highway 411 and Ladd Springs Road at 10 am to caravan to the river. Options are for hikes along the river of one to two miles, swim and or snorkel, or all three. Individuals will be responsible for their own snorkel, mask, fins, and life jacket. If you plan to swim, bring water shoes and a towel. Everyone will be responsible for their own lunch and drinks. Facilities at the site include picnic tables and a vault toilet. There is a ranger-guided tour available for a cost of \$30 per person that we can discuss doing at an upcoming club meeting. If you plan to attend the event, contact Event Leader Lucia Case at 404-210-9634.

## HIWASSEE RIVER FLOAT TRIP

**JULY 30, 2024 | TUESDAY**

Paddle/float from Reliance, TN, public boat ramp next to Hiwassee Outfitters to Highway 411 bridge. Meet at the boat ramp at 1 pm. Text Event Leader Sue Robinson at 423-519-9751 if you plan to attend.

## WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND BRADLEY GREENWAY

Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Bradley 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.

## **LUNCH & LEARN | OBED WILD & SCENIC RIVER**

**JULY 5, 12, 19, 26, 2024**

## **SITTONS CAVE WILD CAVE ADVENTURES**

**JULY 6, 21, 27, 28, 2024 | CLOUDLAND CANYON STATE PARK**

## **TRI-STATE OUTDOORS FEST**

**JULY 20, 2024 | CUMBERLAND GAP TN**

**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 June 13, 2024 6:00 PM Etowah Senior Center**

President Jack Callahan opened the business meeting and welcomed the visitors.

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

The Treasurer's Report will be presented at the next meeting as Jennifer Schroll is out of town.

Past and Upcoming Events were reported on:

### Past Events

- Cleveland Bradley 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 (canceled)
- May 28, 2024 Blue Blazes Trail & Brown's Ferry Federal Road
- May 30, 2024 Tunnel Hill Heritage Center and Museum
- June 1, 2024 National Trails Day 2024 Work Day
- June 4, 2024 Booth Western Art Museum
- June 11, 2024 Walk in the Woods at Johnston Woods

### Upcoming Events

- Cleveland Bradley Greenway Walks each Wednesday
- Third Thursday Breakfast
- June 18, 2024 Mount LeConte
- June 24, 2024 Bob Bald
- July 9, 2024 Falls Branch Falls

### Nominating Committee for 2025

Jack Callahan informed the club that he and incoming President Rob Coombs had met on Tuesday, June 11, to discuss the transition for 2025. Rob Coombs will propose changes to the bylaws which will be discussed and voted on at a future club meeting. Jack Callahan has designated the following club members to serve on the 2025 Board Member Nominating Committee:

- Rob Coombs, Chair
- Richard Harris
- Jennifer Schroll
- Judy Price
- Ruth Pannell
- Jack Callahan, ex officio

The next monthly club meeting will be held at Sugarloaf Mountain Park in Benton, TN, on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 6:00 pm. There will be a potluck meal with the club providing plates, utensils, and beverages. The Event Leader is Ruth Pannell. Judy Price will include the Google Maps link to the park in the July 2024 newsletter.

### Other Business

- Roan Mountain State Park Campout and Birding Event on September 23 – 26, 2024: Everyone attending should make their own reservations.
- Big South Fork NRRRA Campout on October 13 – 17, 2024: Jack Callahan has reserved a section of the Bandy Creek Group Campground.
- Rolesha Hines from Wacker Polysilicon contacted the club requesting a club representative to provide information at the company's We Care Event on the afternoon of July 25. Jack Callahan responded to her that the club would be interested in participating.

Presentation: Friends of the Cherokee National Forest by Leslie Auriemmo

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Price, Acting Secretary**