

## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holiday seasons are upon us! Weather is cooling and trail treads are buried under several inches of leaves. Take extra care when hiking to watch out for objects that may cause tripping and slipping. There will be many more vehicles on the highways as folks journey for the holidays so be careful as you travel. The cooler weather begins to eliminate the dangers of stinging insects and mosquitoes. But never let down your guard on our common copperheads, as they will be out to sun themselves, even on a frosty morning.

The new year will bring many exciting events which will be added to the club calendar. The calendar will be developed over the next few weeks and our Planning Meeting in January will consolidate these and will be published in late January. If you have events you would like to lead, be gathering the information so that it may be presented at the Planning Meeting or submitted to Rob or Jack. (If you would like to lead a hike or event in January 2025, email your writeup to [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) by December 25, 2024, so it can be included in the January 2025 newsletter.)

Jennifer is developing the menu for our Christmas Dinner, and it will be another delicious feast. We had an excellent turnout last year and we are looking forward to great participation again this year. RSVP to [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) with Subject Line "Christmas Party" and the names of those in your party who are attending. Also email [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) if you would like to volunteer to help with the Christmas Party.

If you would like to participate in the Dirty Santa gift exchange at the Christmas Party, bring a \$15 to \$20 gift. Participation is not required! You are welcome to sit and laugh along as gifts are exchanged and exchanged again!

We will have several new officers next year, and I want to thank those who served and the ones who will be continuing in their existing positions. And a special thank you to Judy Price for the excellent and very professional job she has done as Publicist. Her outreach on Facebook, Instagram, and other forms of communication have been outstanding. And the monthly newsletter is always very well done and a joy to read.

Rob will be taking over as the club President, and he will do an excellent job. I look forward to his leadership as he takes the club forward. And, as of this writing, Otis Pannell will be the new Vice-president. We are extremely happy to see Otis in this role.

I appreciate all the cooperation I have received from each and every one of you and it has been my pleasure to serve as your club President. See you on the trail.

*Jack Callahan, Club President*

# 2025 EVENTS

Jennifer Schroll and Jerry Schneider have planned events for 2025:

- Looking ahead to 2025—I am planning two trips that you need to know about now.
  - The first is a canoe trip at Boundary Waters in Minnesota. It will be August 17 to 22, 2025, plus travel days to and from the area. We will use an outfitter to rent lightweight canoes. **Sign up with me by January 10, 2025. After that date, those signed up will "meet" to discuss our route.**
  - The second trip is a tour of Utah's National Parks. The "main plan" will be:
    - September 16, 17, and 18, 2025, we will camp at Zion National Park. **Reservations can be made six months ahead.** While at Zion, we will also visit Capitol Reef National Park.
    - September 19, 2025, we will stay at Bryce Canyon (National Park) Lodge. **Reservations can be made NOW.**
    - September 20, 21, and 22, 2025, we will camp at Arches National Park. **Reservations can be made six months ahead.** While at Arches, we will visit Canyonlands National Park.
    - **Travel to and from Utah is on your own.** There are lots of options to stay in hotels just outside the parks if you don't want to camp. The club will plan various day hikes each day according to what the group wants to do. **Make your own reservations.**

Contact me at [jennifergeologist@gmail.com](mailto:jennifergeologist@gmail.com) or 423-284-1256. • Jennifer Schroll

- I am planning two events in 2025:
  - The first is a five-day group campout with a driving tour and day hikes at Red River Gorge in Kentucky in mid-May 2025.
  - The second is a week-long biking event on the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) beginning in Pittsburgh and traveling southeast on a rails-to-trails and tow path with many options on mileage and lodging, from bike camping to B&Bs along the way. Typically, it would be 150 miles, but those wanting to could extend the ride to DC for a total of 300 miles.

More information will be available in the 2025 calendar. If you have interest, please contact me at [jschneider@fioptics.com](mailto:jschneider@fioptics.com). • Jerry Schneider

# PAST EVENTS

## CHEROHALA SKYWAY FESTIVAL OCTOBER 26, 2024



The Benton MacKaye Trail Association (BMTA) had a booth, as usual, at the Cherokee Skyway Festival held behind the Visitor Center and the Museum in Tellico Plains. The weather was perfect at the start of the day, then clouds rolled in, and by the end of the day we were packing up in a sprinkle. But that did not keep the crowds away. Masses of folks came out. Overall, nine folks helped at the booth (Rick and Brenda Harris, Bob Cowdrick, Ed and Clare Sullivan, Ken and BJ Andrews, Barb Lewinski, and Deborah Hogsten).



Our booth was an interactive booth. We had dozens of kids and several grown-ups try their skills with a crosscut saw. Our booth was located next to the USFS booth and the Kidz Zone with a climbing wall and various blow-up thingies, so there were lots of kids to grab (not literally) and bring over to our booth to try out their sawing skills.



All day long, we could hear the bluegrass music in the background. Food and crafts were everywhere. And one of the best food items was the Ale 8 that Ed Sullivan brought me. I love Ale 8, a root beer drink from Kentucky we would always drink after a day of exploring caves or backpacking Red River Gorge with our Boy Scout Troop along with pizza, of course. • Rick Harris

## BAY POINT LOOP OCTOBER 31, 2024



We had a gorgeous autumn day for a Halloween hike! Four hikers—Phyllis Anderson, Edmond Gray, Carin Taber, and Hike Leader Judy Price—enjoyed the beautiful four-and-a-half-mile trail at Harrison Bay State Park.





The leaves on the trees along the bay were showing their fall colors. We didn't see any deer on our hike (although Carin saw one on her drive in), but we were excited to cross paths with a tiny greensnake!



The waves were lapping against the small beaches along the trail. Carin had told us that there was a wind advisory of 20 mph, and when we stopped for lunch on a bench by a cove we all ended up with the windswept look! The park has installed four new trailside benches (adding two and replacing two) that were an Eagle Scout project.



Soon we were back at the trailhead where a gulf fritillary butterfly saw us off, ending a wonderful hike! • Judy Price



**SODDY CREEK GORGE (NORTH) SECTION OF THE CUMBERLAND TRAIL NOVEMBER 2, 2024**

Canceled. • Judy Price



## CLEVELAND STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE NATURE TRAIL NOVEMBER 2, 2024



Nine hikers—Phyllis and James Anderson, Bob and Smoky Dornfeld, Edmond Gray, Sue McQueeney, Jennifer Schroll, Carin Taber, and Hike Leader Judy Price met at Cleveland State Community College to hike the Nature Trail on an overcast autumn day. The trail was in surprisingly good shape and it appeared that blazes had been carved into the trees.



We began hiking the first loop heading to the top of the ridge. The leaves were very pretty shades of yellow and orange but many were still green. Our birders Bob and Carin recognized the calls of a chickadee and red-bellied woodpecker. Poor Phyllis was stung by hornets but persevered like the trooper she is!

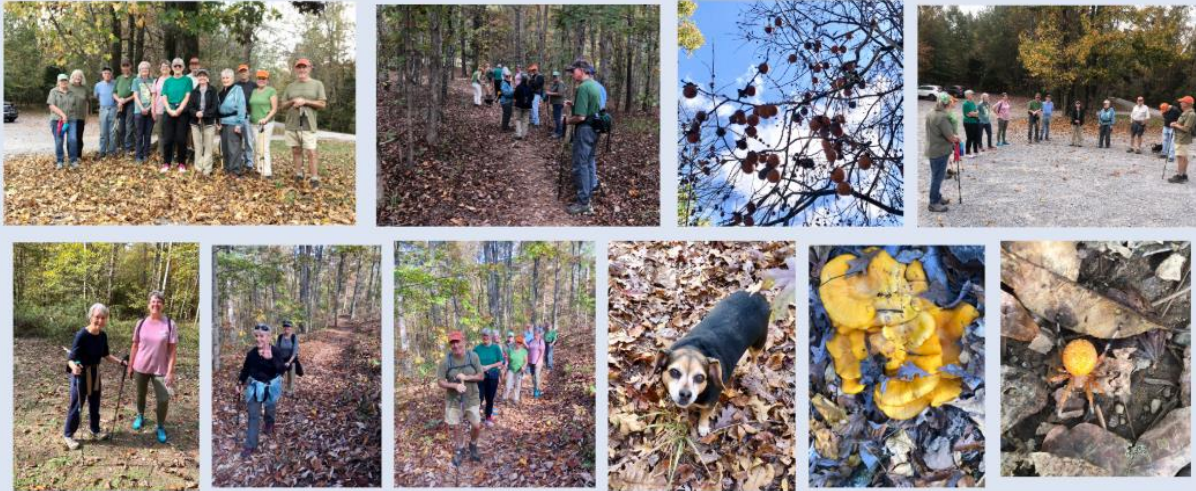


We continued the loops, getting a good cardio workout on the hills with Smoky acting as Hike Leader. After repeating the first loop in the opposite direction, our two-ish-mile hike sadly came to an end. It was a fun hike with great friends! • Judy Price

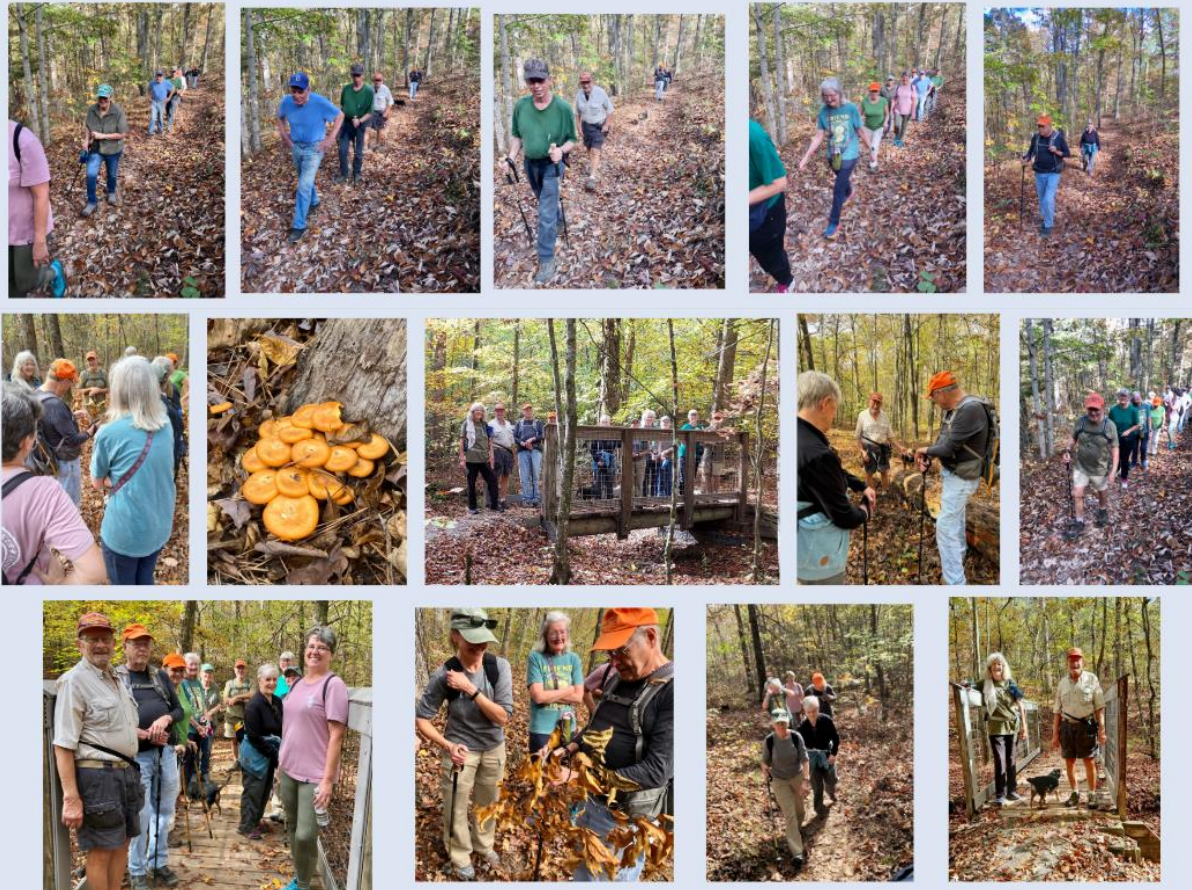




**WALK IN THE WOODS | JOHNSTON WOODS NOVEMBER 5, 2024**



• James Anderson



**BUSHWHACK AT HISTORIC CCC CAMP AT SYLCO NOVEMBER 9, 2024**

Canceled due to predicted inclement weather and will be rescheduled. • Jack Callahan



## MONTHLY CLUB MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2024



Jack Callahan opened the meeting with an introduction of two visitors and a blessing before the potluck meal. The door prize was awarded to Otis Pannell. There were many delicious dishes on the menu along with excellent desserts! Thanks to all of the wonderful folks who prepared and brought dishes. Your participation is greatly appreciated. After the meal, Jack gave the updates on the past month's and upcoming month's club events. Jennifer Schroll gave the Treasurer's Report and Rob Coombs discussed the club bylaws and officer job descriptions which he has updated to reflect the current times. Jennifer discussed the Christmas Party and asked for volunteers to help with certain duties for the event.



Jack then turned the meeting over to Otis, who gave a discussion on his three most recent backpacking trips. These included the Wonderland Trail around Mount Rainier in Washington state, the Collegiate Trail in Colorado, and the Long Trail in Vermont. Otis also had numerous slides of his trips and gave descriptions of them throughout his discussion. He compared his trips to 30 years or more ago when his dad Clayton backpacked the AT when there were no cellphones and Uber was nonexistent. Otis is a wealth of information on trail conditions, permitting, and access to the trail and hostels. If your questions were not answered, catch Otis at the next meeting. • Jack Callahan



## STONE DOOR TO GREETER FALLS | SAVAGE GULF STATE PARK NOVEMBER 16, 2024





Six club members hiked from the Stone Door parking lot out along the rim of Savage Gulf, with stops at the Stone Door and multiple overlooks, to Greeter Falls parking lot. The weather was clear and temps were in the 60's, excellent for hiking. Fall color was mostly gone, but there was an occasional bright red maple that really stood out.



At the Greeter Falls loop, the group split up and two drivers left to complete the shuttle, while the others hiked to the falls. Even with the little rain we have had, there was a good flow over the falls. The park service has made numerous improvements recently, including expanding the parking lots and repaving and striping them. The extra parking was needed as both lots were almost completely full.



The total length hiked was 5.5 miles, and it was a great outing. Hikers included Jennifer Schroll, Anne Anderson, James Anderson, Charlie Snow, Marrie Lasater, and Hike Leader Jack Callahan. • Jack Callahan



### EUREKA TRAIL NOVEMBER 19, 2024



Three hikers set out on the Eureka Trail in Athens which is an easy wide gravel path on a multi-use trail so there are usually plenty of walkers and bikers. We began our walk at the main trailhead located at 1400 East Madison Avenue. We enjoyed spotting birds and learning about the Merlin app which helps to identify birds based on sound. Some of the highlights were great views of a fox sparrow, hermit thrush, and two yellow-bellied sapsuckers. There were also plenty of white-throated sparrows and northern cardinals! Bob Dornfeld and his pup Smoky and new member Chris Heard joined Hike Leader Kelly Ducham for a five-mile out-and-back walk. • Kelly Ducham



## THE GREAT COMPASS COURSE TIMED EVENT NOVEMBER 23, 2024



One of the control points along the compass course. They are not easy to see until you are right on top of them.

The Great Compass Course event took place at Fletcher Park in Cleveland. Jack and Jennifer set up a six-point 1000-foot course; plus, there was a 1100-foot A to B run to an unknown location from the starting point. The two events required contestants to use pacing and compass azimuth readings, testing their skills on these basic tools. Afterwards, there was a delicious noon meal at a local Mexican restaurant. If you missed this event, you really missed out! • Jack Callahan and Jennifer Schroll

## ENTERPRISE SOUTH NATURE PARK NOVEMBER 26, 2024



Four hikers and one pup gathered at Enterprise South Nature Park in Chattanooga to hike the trails. This park has 2,800 wooded acres that were a part of the Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant property in the 1940's. Today there are hiking and biking trails, a scenic drive, and much more.



Our walk began at Parking Lot #1 on the Upper Poe Run Trail which is generally flat with just enough hills to get warmed up. We entered one of the ammunition bunkers that was open. We then walked up a few switchbacks to the Poe Overlook Trail, went over the new bridge on Deer Hollow Trail (where we saw a deer!), and then descended to the Hidden Lake which is very lovely for a break on the swings and view of the lake.

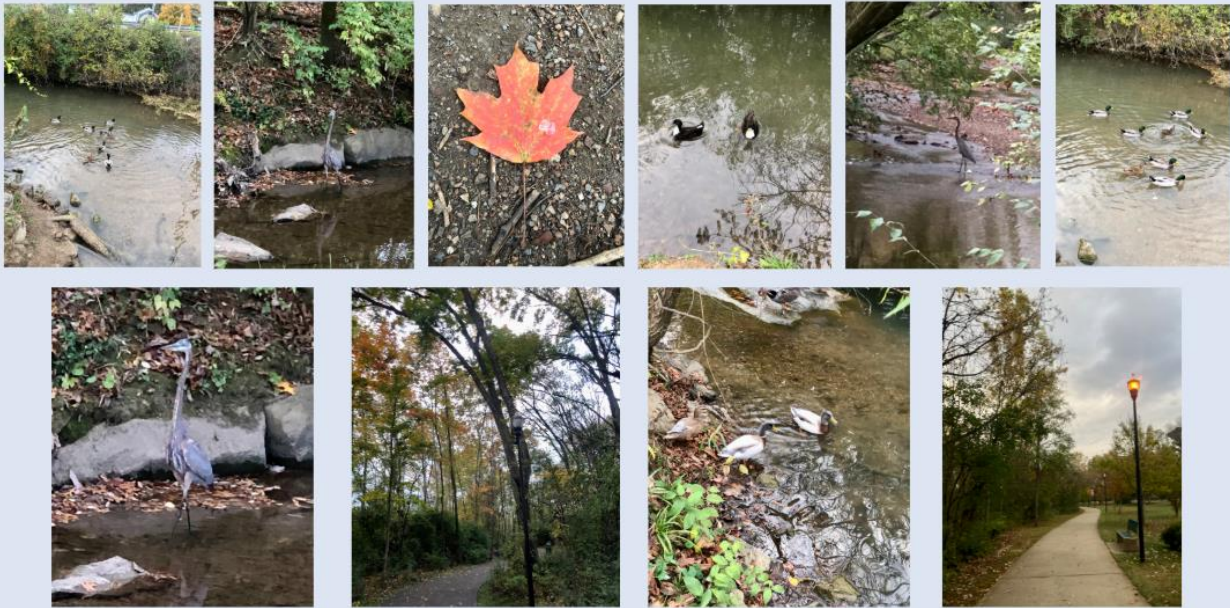




While at the lake, we watched a belted kingfisher, cardinal, and a red-bellied woodpecker! Hikers Kathy Thelen, Judy Price, and Bob Dornfeld and his pup Smoky joined HIke Leader Kelly Ducham for the four-mile hike. • Kelly Ducham



**WEDNESDAY WALKS ON THE CLEVELAND BRADLEY GREENWAY**



Every Wednesday Jack Callahan and Jennifer Schroll lead a walk on the Cleveland Bradley Greenway. • Jack Callahan





## THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH BREAKFAST



Every third Thursday the club meets at The Old Fort Restaurant for breakfast and conversation! • Jack Callahan



# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

## **CANDIES CREEK GREENWAY & WETLANDS LOOP**

**DECEMBER 2, 2024 | MONDAY | CLEVELAND TN**

We will leisurely walk the greenway, passing over historic Dobbs Ford Bridge, with the option to add the Wetlands Loop Trail if we'd like to continue to walk. Easy, mostly flat, five miles or less. Contact Hike Leaders Judy Price and Kelly Ducham at [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) for meetup details.

## **RHODODENDRON TRAIL & BEAR PAW LOOP | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

**DECEMBER 5, 2024 | TUESDAY**

We will meet at Thunder Rock Trailhead 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. 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](mailto:dkss2063@hotmail.com).

## **BUGGYTOP CAVE | SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK**

**DECEMBER 9, 2024 | MONDAY | SEWANEE TN**

Meet at 9:00 am at Park and Ride at I-75 exit and Hwy 60 next to the Mapco station in Cleveland to carpool or arrange with Hike Leader to meet at trailhead where there is plenty of parking. This is a four-mile moderate hike with a short section back up from the cave entrance that might be called strenuous. The trail is in the Carter State Natural Area near Sewanee, TN (on CST), which is a part of South Cumberland State Park. It is soon to be part of a new state park to be called Head of the Crow. It is Crow Creek that rushes from the Buggytop or Lost Cove Cave entrance. Just north of the park, Lost Creek is "trapped" in its cove by a ridge where it drains into a sink and disappears. It emerges in several places, the most spectacular being the Buggytop Cave opening. Here the stream is named Crow Creek and eventually flows into the Tennessee River in Alabama. The trail is rocky and rooty, so hiking boots and poles or a hiking stick are recommended. It is estimated it will take us about 3 to 3-1/2 hours to complete the hike. The cave is closed to cavers in December to protect roosting bats, but we will be able to explore around the massive entrance. Contact Hike Leader Anne Anderson at 423-284-7032.

## **OUTER LOOP & NATURE TRAIL | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK**

**DECEMBER 10, 2024 | TUESDAY | HARRISON TN**

Via the Nature Trail, we will hike the 3.9-mile 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 at [dkss2063@hotmail.com](mailto:dkss2063@hotmail.com).

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**DECEMBER 14, 2024 | SATURDAY | NOON | ETOWAH SENIOR CENTER**

It is \$10 per person at the door. Arrive at noon and eat at 1 pm. After the meal, there will be a brief business meeting. The 2025 officers will be inducted and then the always entertaining "Unwashed Santa" (Dirty Santa) gift exchange will be held. RSVP to [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) with Subject Line "Christmas Party" and the names of those in your party who are attending. Bring a \$15 to \$20 gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange. Participation is not required!

## **BOYD GAP & OLD COPPER ROAD | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST**

**DECEMBER 21, 2024 | SATURDAY**

This is approximately a five-mile easy-to-moderate hike that can be muddy if it has rained. There may be weather-related drainage crossings. We will shuttle from the Whitewater Center to Boyd Gap parking and hike the Boyd Gap Trail and Forest Service Road #334 to Old Copper Road. We will hike the historic trail back to Whitewater Center parking. There is a \$3.00 user fee. Bring snacks, water, and trekking poles. Contact Hike Leaders Judy Price and Kelly Ducham at [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) for details.

## **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/OCOEE 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.

## **CUMBERLAND TRAILS CONFERENCE TRAIL BUILDING**

**DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2024 | DADDYS CREEK**

## **WHISPERING GIANTS INTERTRIBAL NATIVE FESTIVAL | MUSEUM AT FIVE POINTS**

**DECEMBER 7, 2024**

## **CHRISTMAS AT RED CLAY**

**DECEMBER 8, 2024**

## **TENNESSEE STATE PARKS FIRST DAY HIKES**

**JANUARY 1, 2025**

## **GEORGIA STATE PARKS FIRST DAY HIKES**

**JANUARY 1, 2025**

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 November 14, 2024 6:00 PM Etowah Senior Center**

President Jack Callahan opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including two visitors.

Otis Pannell won the door prize.

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

Jennifer Schroll will give a detailed Treasurer's Report next month. In general, the current balance is approximately just short of \$3,000.00. Expenditures include reimbursement to Jack Callahan for food for the October meeting and \$200.00 donation to Appalachian Trail Resilience Fund (ATRF). Revenue includes surplus from Big South Fork campout, \$100.00 donation from the Gibbuds for ATRF, and one new membership of \$15.00. The donation to ATRF resulted in the club becoming a member of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

### Past Events

- Cleveland Bradley Greenway Walks each Wednesday
- Third Thursday Breakfast
- October 13 - 17, 2024 Group Campout at Big South Fork NRRRA Bandy Creek Campground
- October 21, 2024 Whigg Meadow
- October 28 Bay Point Loop
- October 28 – November 1, 2024 Appalachian Trail Backpacking Trip (canceled)
- October 29, 2024 Childers Creek to Big Bend on BMT/JMNRT (canceled)
- November 2, 2024 Cleveland State Community College Nature Trail
- November 5, 2024 Walk in the Woods at Johnston Woods
- November 9, 2024 Historic CCC Camp at Sylco (canceled and will be rescheduled)

### Upcoming Events

- Cleveland Bradley Greenway Walks each Wednesday
- Third Thursday Breakfast
- November 16, 2024 Stone Door to Greeter Falls
- November 19, 2024 Eureka Trail
- November 23, 2024 The Great Compass Course Timed Event at Fletcher Park
- November 25, 2024 Enterprise South Nature Park
- November 30, 2024 Linda Davis Memorial Walk at Cleveland Bradley Greenway
- December 2, 2024 Candies Creek Greenway and Wetlands Loop
- December 9, 2024 Buggytop Cave
- December 10, 2024 Booker T. Washington State Park
- December 17, 2024 Rhododendron Trail and Bear Paw Loop
- December 21, 2024 Boyd Gap Trail and Old Copper Road

Donation to Hurricane Helene Flood Relief Agency

Jennifer Schroll posted a check for \$200.00 to Appalachian Trail Resiliency Fund on October 13, 2024

### Upcoming Meeting: December Christmas Party Information

- Saturday, December 14: arrive at noon, eat at 1 pm at the Etowah Senior Center. Jennifer Schroll is catering the event.
- Cost: \$10 per person. Ann Gray will man the sign-in table.
- Dues: Can pay \$15 per household 2025 annual dues at the same time
- Jack Callahan will ask the Grays to emcee the Dirty Santa gift exchange
- RSVP: If you plan to attend the Christmas Party, send an email to [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) with the Subject Line "Christmas Party" and indicate who will be included in your party. The emails will be forwarded to Jennifer Schroll who will keep track of anticipated attendees.
- Volunteers: Email [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) to volunteer to assist Jennifer Schroll with the meal or the setup at the Etowah Senior Center
- 2025 Officer Induction Ceremony
- Brief business meeting

### January 2025 Planning Meeting

- Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 2 pm at Etowah Senior Center
- Bring written hike and event writeups to the meeting. One sheet of paper per event. Email Rob Coombs at [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) with your writeup if you cannot attend.



#### January 2025 Hikes and Events

Anyone planning to lead a hike or event in January 2025 should email writeup ASAP (deadline December 25, 2024) to [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) to be included in the January 2025 newsletter.

#### Other Business

- Jennifer Schroll reminded the club about the 2025 events (Boundary Waters and Utah National Parks) she has planned and anyone interested in attending Boundary Waters should contact her by January 10, 2025. Rob Coombs asked about the difficulty rating of the Boundary Waters trip and Rick Harris indicated there can be long portages. Jennifer Schroll pointed out that she is planning to arrange a meeting in January or February with interested parties who respond by January 10 so a route can be mapped out. She has found a route with portages measured in yards with the longest being a half mile. The cost of a 42-lb two-person canoe is \$55.00 and the outfitter will pick up/drop off.
- Rob Coombs requested a volunteer to fill the position of Vice-president for 2025. The position of Newsletter Editor/Publicity is in the works. He has updated the bylaws and job descriptions and will present them to the Executive Committee in January, introduce them before the club in February, and bring them to a vote in March.
- Jack Callahan discussed two events proposed by Jerry Schneider:
  - The first is a five-day group campout with a driving tour and day hikes at Red River Gorge in Kentucky in mid-May 2025.
  - The second is a week-long biking event on the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) beginning in Pittsburgh and traveling southeast on a rails-to-trails and tow path with many options on mileage and lodging, from bike camping to B&Bs along the way. Typically, it would be 150 miles, but those wanting to could extend the ride to DC for a total of 300 miles.

More information will be available in the annual calendar. If interested, please contact Jerry Schneider.

Presentation: Thru Hike Q & A (Wonderland, Collegiate, and Long Trails) by Otis Pannell

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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