

# THE CHEROKEE HIKER JANUARY 2025 VOLUME 42, ISSUE 1



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As the new year rings in I find myself filled with a sense of gratitude. I am thankful for the past leadership of our hike club that has been a significant part of creating a great community of people who enjoy experiencing and sharing the great outdoors. Thanks, in particular, goes out to our former president, Jack Callahan. He has been an exemplary president bringing to our club a wealth of knowledge, a strong commitment, and caring for each and every member. He, also, has proven to be an invaluable resource during my preparation to become the next club president, and, too, for his willingness to continue to be a resource for the year to come. I am thankful, too, for the Executive Committee who has agreed to become the backbone of leadership for the year ahead. I'm looking forward to working with Otis Panell - Vice President, Jennifer Schroll - Treasurer, Phyllis Anderson - Publicist, Rick Harris - Webmaster, and Margaret Callahan - Hostess. Collectively, we will work together seeking to ensure the club will continue to provide opportunities to enjoy as many hikes as possible in the year to come.

Dues for 2025 are due. If you haven't done so, please send a \$15 (per family in a household) check to Cherokee Hiking Club, 1295 Crown Street NW, Cleveland, TN 37312.

As we move into the new year, help us plan a year of events that meet the needs and wants of all of our club members, if there is an event you would like to lead or suggest, please attend the upcoming Annual Planning Meeting at 2:00 pm, January 19, 2025. We will meet at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church; 923 Ohio Ave; Etowah, TN 37311. If you cannot make this meeting, you can text me and let me know of your interest in leading a hike. I will send you the "Hike Request Form" which you can text (423-400-8008) or email (drrcoombs@aol.com) back to me. We already have numerous ideas for interesting hikes, tours, and speakers for the coming year. I am excited for the opportunities that lie ahead.

See you at the Annual Planning Meeting.

Rob Coombs, Club President

*Rob Coombs, Club President*

# 2025 EVENTS

## ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

**JANUARY 19, 2025 | SUNDAY | 2 PM | WESLEY MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

We will meet at 923 Ohio Avenue, Etowah, TN 37331, for the Annual Planning Meeting. Bring write-ups for events and/or hikes on a single sheet of paper per hike/event. If you cannot attend the Planning Meeting, please email [cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com](mailto:cherokeehikingclub@gmail.com) with your event/hike information.

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

### *From Jennifer Schroll and Jerry Schneider:*

- 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

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# PAST EVENTS

## LINDA DAVIS MEMORIAL WALK | CLEVELAND BRADLEY GREENWAY NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Four club members enjoyed a nice round-trip walk from the pavilion on Raider Drive to the southern terminus of the Cleveland Bradley Greenway on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. The weather was more "traditional" than has often been the case often the past few years as temperatures were below freezing at the onset but warmed nicely throughout the morning. This annual hike, named for the late club member Linda Davis, has been an annual tradition for several years. The walkers enjoyed the cool crisp air and pleasant conversation as well as viewing the resident ducks and several stands of frost flowers. Enjoying the morning were Judy Price, Phyllis Anderson, James Anderson, and Hike Leader Randy Morris. • Randy Morris



## RHODODENDRON TRAIL & BEAR PAW LOOP DECEMBER 5, 2024

Five hikers joined Hike Leader Kelly Ducham for a relaxing 5.2-mile hike in the Cherokee National Forest. We met at the 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 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 clockwise direction and ended up back at the trailhead where we retraced our steps along the Rhododendron Trail back to the parking lot. Hikers on the trail today were Judy Price, Bob Dornfeld and his pup Smoky, Chris Heard, and Jerry and Nina Barrow. • Kelly Ducham



## BUGGYTOP CAVE | SOUTH CUMBERLAND STATE PARK DECEMBER 9, 2024

Canceled. • Anne Anderson

## **OUTER LOOP & NATURE TRAIL | BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATE PARK DECEMBER 10, 2024**

Canceled. • Kelly Ducham

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY DECEMBER 14, 2024**

The Christmas Party was at the Etowah Senior Center and began at noon with sign-in handled by Ann Gray. Hors d'oeuvres and conversation were enjoyed until the meal was served at 1 P.M. Jennifer Schroll was again the chef and prepared the meal, including desserts and a variety of items on the hors d'oeuvres table. She also made cookies, cakes, and pies for dessert. She is an amazing lady with so much energy and love for cooking. Otis was shoulder-to-shoulder with her in the kitchen doing yeoman's work carving turkeys and helping out. After the meal, the silent auction prizes of a jar of candy and a jar of cookies were awarded to the winners. Interestingly, Clayton Pannell won one jar, and Ruth Pannell won the other. What are the odds?? Jack asked outgoing officers to come up, and he gave them personal gifts from him for their great work throughout the year. The program was then turned over to Jennifer who conducted the 2025 officer induction ceremonies, with the theme of "Tools." New officers for 2025 are: Rob Coombs, President; Otis Pannell, Vice President; Jennifer Schroll, Treasurer; Rick Harris, Webmaster; Phyllis Anderson, Publicist; and Margaret Callahan, Hospitality. The program was then turned over to Shauna and Jimmy Drinnon, who did an excellent job of managing the Unwashed Santa gift exchange. Larry Van Dyke won a record of sorts, as his different gifts were stolen five times. It was a fun time, with several gifts being highly prized. The event ended with everyone helping cleanup with a special thanks to Sandra Fenton, Otis, Ruth and Clayton Pannell, and Doug Lynch doing extra duty on cleanup. A special thanks again to Jennifer for all her hard work in meal preparation. She did an outstanding job! • Jack Callahan



## **BOYD GAP & OLD COPPER ROAD | CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST DECEMBER 21, 2024**

Seven hikers joined Hike Leaders Jack Callahan and Kelly Ducham for a relaxing five-mile hike in the Cherokee National Forest. We met at the Ocoee Whitewater Center parking lot where we had a few flakes of snow! We shuttled to the Boyd Gap parking lot where we started the downhill section of the hike. It was good to get started and warmed up. Before heading along the river, we took a side trip to take a look at the dam. The Old Copper Road Trail led us along the river and back to the Ocoee Whitewater Center. The Copper Road was built in the 1850's and was used to transport copper from the mines in the area to Cleveland. Today, this 2.4-mile section of road is registered on the National Register of Historic Places. We saw some interesting fungus along the trail and came across a tree stump and tree that a beaver had chopped down. Hikers on the trail today were Bob Dornfeld and his pup Smoky, Chris Heard, Clare and Ed Sullivan, Nicka Smith Boone, Kim Sutton, and Laura Birchard Slack. • Kelly Ducham



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

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



### **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. • Jack Callahan



## **NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES**

### **TELLICO/OCOE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW**

Check the Facebook page for future workdays.

### **BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION**

See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance sites.

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

# MINUTES

There was no business meeting in December 2024.