

THE CHEROKEE HIKER

APRIL 2026

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 4



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Hiking is not escapism; it's realism. The people who choose to spend time outdoors are not running away from anything; we are returning to where we belong." - Jennifer Pharr Davis

The first time I met Judy Norton I was inspired by the strength of her character. To be the first woman guide on the Ocoee River battling whitewater with guys demands a pioneering spirit. Thank you for not only for an interesting and beautiful presentation, but, also, for being an inspiration to other women who have followed in your footsteps.

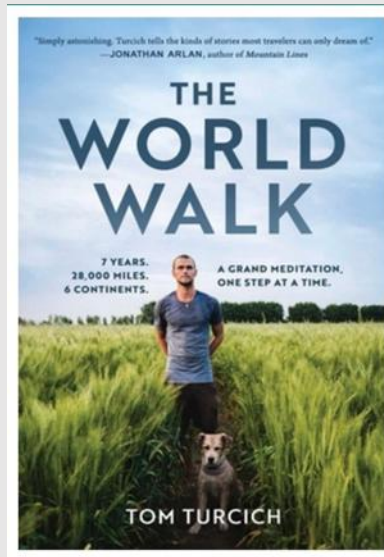
How long do you hope to live? Seventy, eighty, ninety or perhaps over 100 years? A significant factor in our longevity is determined by our genes, so it's important to pick the right parents. Choose parents who have lived a long, healthy life and your chances of living a long, healthy life are significantly enhanced. If you are unable to choose your parents, you might focus on what you can choose. How you live, your lifestyle choices, also significantly contribute to how long you will live and how healthy you will be as you age. By adopting healthy habits early in life, you not only increase the likelihood of living longer, but greatly increase the vitality of your life as you age.

Primary among several healthy choices we can make is exercise. Exercise at any age is good for the health, but especially important as we age. Physical exercise can actually slow down the process of aging by helping us maintain muscle and bone strength. In addition to feeling better and actually increasing our life expectancy, regular exercise helps preserve mental sharpness and can help combat depression later in life. I can think of no better way to exercise than taking advantage of the many opportunities our club provides. Not only do you nourish your body with needed exercise, you also do this by becoming involved with kindred spirits who share the joy and wonder of the great outdoors - another healthy choice that enhances the quality of your life.

See you at our next scheduled club meeting at the Etowah Senior Center on Thursday, April 9, 2026. Our presentation will be "A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships" presented by Tom Darden. Rob Coombs, Club President



HIKE CLUB BOOK RECOMMENDATION . . .



The World Walk by Tom Turcich is a memoir about his seven-year, 28,000-mile journey on foot across six continents with his dog, Savannah, exploring themes of self-discovery, human resilience, and the kindness of strangers. The book details his experiences, from surviving dangerous encounters to finding profound meaning in cultures worldwide and is praised for its inspiring storytelling and photography. It's described as an epic tale of adventure, endurance, and the transformative power of pursuing a dream.

REMINDER:

TO ATTEND ANY EVENT, YOU MUST CONTACT THE EVENT LEADER AS THERE ARE TIMES DUE TO WEATHER OR OTHER CONDITIONS WHERE A HIKE IS CANCELED OR RESCHEDULED. THE EVENT LEADER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU IF YOU DO NOT GET ON THE ATTENDEE LIST.

APRIL EVENTS

Friday, April 3, 2026 - BMT along Hiwassee River from Childers Creek to the Powerhouse

Hike Leaders - Brenda & Rick Harris (and Nahme, our dog).

Location: Childers Creek Trailhead, John Muir/BMT Trail near Reliance.

Departure Time: 10 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m. Hike

Difficulty is rated *easy*.

What to Bring: Lunch, water, your dog on leash.

Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. For this ~ 5-mile hike, we will meet at the Childers Creek Trailhead, then position some vehicles up at the Appalachia Powerhouse. Then we will return to the Childers Creek Trailhead and hike upstream along this incredibly beautiful river along

the John Muir Trail to the Towee Creek parking area. From there, we will follow the old JMT route or the road to the powerhouse. When we return to the parking lot at Childers Creek, we can fire up a stove and have hot chocolate and snacks, provided by Rick & Brenda. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - Shakerag Hollow

Hike Leader - Lucia Case.

Location: The University of the South, Sewanee, TN.

Meet at the University Gates parking lot.

Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time: Late afternoon. Rating: Easy.

What to Bring: Money for lunch at the university dining hall, boots that can handle mud, roots, and rocks.

Brief Description: Expect to see a profusion of spring wildflowers. After lunch we will go on a very short hike to the Natural Bridge.

Contact Email: luciaclarkcase@gmail.com; Cell phone: 404-210-9634.

Thursday, April 9, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting

We will meet at the Etowah Senior Center in Etowah at 6:00 p.m. for a potluck supper and a presentation by Tom Darden on "A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships."

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Ijams Nature Center

Hike Leaders - Margaret & Jack Callahan.

Location: 2915 Island Home Avenue,

Knoxville, TN 37290. Meet at the Nature Center.

Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time 2:00 p.m.

Rating: Easy. What to Bring: Lunch and rain gear.

Brief Description: There is a \$5.00 charge to park. The gardens are free.

Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Silver Comet + Chief Ladiga Trail Bicycle Ride

Leaders: Janet & Rob Coombs

Important updates for those who would like to participate:

***Tuesday, April 14, 2026** - Meet at 9:30 a.m. **Central Standard Time** in the lobby of the Hampton Inn Jacksonville-Anniston Area 1041 JD-L Dr. SW, Jacksonville, Alabama, 36265. I have asked for permission to leave our cars in the hotel parking lot until we return on Thursday. We will bike 1 mile from the hotel to enter the Chief Ladiga Trail at mile marker (MM) 5. There are two reasons to enter the trail at this location rather than MM-0: one, the reviews for the hotel near the Anniston trailhead were poor, and two, this will shorten the miles we bike on our first day to 38 miles. Janet and I plan to spend the night before the ride (Monday night April 13) at the Hampton Inn, but this is optional for the rest of the group. Those not staying overnight at this hotel the day before the ride should still plan to meet us there to park their cars as that is the location where the shuttle will return us on Thursday. Tuesday's ride will be 38 miles to Cedartown, GA where we should arrive in time to enjoy dinner. The best option for a hotel in Cedartown is the Quality Inn at 925 N Main Street, 770-747-9951, which is 1.6 miles off the trail.

***Wednesday, April 15, 2026** - We will bike from Cedartown to Hiram, GA. Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, 70 Enterprise Path, Hiram, GA, 30141, The hotel is reasonably priced, decent, and less than a mile (.7) from the trail.

***Thursday, April 16, 2026** - We will bike 17 miles to the Smyrna Trailhead (MM 94) Our shuttle will pick us up at 1:00 p.m. (EST) and return us to the Hampton Inn Jacksonville-Anniston Area parking lot. The cost of the shuttle is a flat fee which will be shared equally between the passengers. Depending on the number participating in the bike ride, the shuttle should be \$40-60 per person.

***Shuttle Reservations** - The shuttle can transport eight passengers and eight bicycles. If need be, the shuttle driver will return to Smyrna to pick up a second load of passengers. For this reason, those participating on this outing will be limited to 16. You can reserve your spot by sending a text message or calling me (Rob) - 423-400-8008.

For a great resource for this trip, check out bikesilvercomet.com/planner.aspx.

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast

Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Friday, April 24, 2026 - BMT – Whigg Meadow to Beech Gap

Hike Leaders - Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog).

Location: Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center.

Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m.

Rating: *moderately strenuous*.

What to Bring (food, water, etc.): Lunch, water, your dog on leash.

Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 4.8-mile section of the BMT will start at Whigg Meadow (~5000' elevation) with its expansive views and will follow the BMT north to Mud Gap then along the state line ridge all the way to Beech Gap. With minimal tree foliage, the views should be fantastic, and the majority of the winter should be behind us. There is quite a bit of ups and downs, so expect to get a good workout. After the hike, we will have to retrieve vehicles up on the Whigg, then we can go to Tellico Plains for dinner possibly at the Ironworks Grille right on the edge of the Tellico River. They have outside seating where well-behaved dogs are allowed. Contact: Email: 513-260-1184.

Saturday, April 25, 2026 - Walls of Jericho

Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Meet at the state line south of Winchester, TN.

Departure Time: 8 a.m. Return Time: 5 p.m.

Hike Difficulty is rated *easy*.

What to Bring: Water and lunch.

Brief Description: After a short car shuttle, we will descend from the TN trailhead; some sections are steep. Hopefully we will see lots of wildflowers. At the bottom, we will cross two streams via foot bridges and travel ½ along a rugged section of trail, then ford a shallow, wide creek to reach the "walls" area. A fantastic geological area, like a cave above ground and maybe a waterfall. Then we will backtrack on the rugged trail and ascend 1300+ feet to the AL trailhead. 6 miles roundtrip.

Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - Big Creek Trail

Hike Leader - Jack Callahan. Location: Big Frog Wilderness; Big Creek Trail.

Departure time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time 5:00 p.m.

Rating: *moderate*.

What to Bring: Lunch, water, shoes, and rain gear.

Brief Description: A leisurely one-way walk about 2 miles.

Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - 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 p.m. A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated *easy*. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

MAY AT-A-GLANCE

Friday, May 1, 2026 - Flats Mountain Hike - Brenda & Rick Harris (and Nahme, our dog) will lead this hike.

Location: Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center.

Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 3 p.m.

Hike Difficulty: *moderate*. Bring: Lunch, water, your leashed dog.

Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 6.2-mile hike takes us along the crest of the mountain which sits above the lake at Indian Boundary. The trail for the most part is downhill (~2000' drop), and most of this downhill trek is in the last two miles. We will leave cars at the bottom along Citico Creek Road, then travel to the trailhead at the top of the Cherohala Skyway at mile 19. We will first climb a couple hundred feet to two balds, then start our downhill trek, partly in and partly out of the Citico Creek Wilderness. So, we will be limited to 12 hikers. The middle two miles is often quite brushy unless we have been up there to clear the brush on a Thursday work trip before our hike, so long pants and long sleeve shirts are recommended. We will eat lunch at a gap about halfway down the trail. Afterwards, we can congregate at the Tellicafe for supper.

**Below is updated information about the camp-out at Linville Gorge May 4-8, 2026. Note the this is a "camp-out" with day hikes. It was erroneously labeled as a "backpack" in the list of events.*

Monday - Friday, May 4 - 8, 2026 - Linville Gorge, NC, Campout -

Hike Leader - Buddy Arnold, we_arnold@outlook.com, cell number 601-415-3551

Location: Linville Falls, RV Park and Cabins. This is about 4.5-hour drive from Cleveland. The plan is to stay at this private campground that has a choice of tent camping, RV sites with full hook-ups, and cabins. A quick review shows the rates to be reasonable and with good facilities including showers and a camp store. There is more information at linvillefalls.com. I am planning to rent a tent site a month or so before the event. Each camp site is rated for 6 people, so depending on number of participants, we can rent adjacent sites for convenience.

Departure Time 8:00-a.m., May 4. I may be going up a day early to check out the area.

Return Time: Afternoon of May 8.

Hike Difficulty: There are many hikes in the area of varying difficulty. Information on day hikes can be found at <https://share.google/drGTy9CHN4xfQ6ZoQ>.

What to Bring: Normal hiking gear. This time of the year temperatures can vary a lot, so plan for layers and possible need for cold weather clothes. It is always smart to have rain gear. All hikers are responsible for their own meals. If folks are interested, we can plan to have evening meals together.

Brief Description of the Hike: The plan is to select several hikes of varying degrees of difficulty that hikers can choose from. More information on day hikes can be found at <https://share.google/drGTy0CHN4xfQ6zOq>.

Friday - May 8, 2026 - Brush Creek Trail - Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Brush Creek Trail.

Hike Difficulty: Moderate.

Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 7 miles. Almost all gently downhill. Short shuttle.

Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Sunday - Thursday, May 10 - 14, 2026 - Stone Mountain, North Carolina - Hike Leader - Jack Callahan.

Location: Stone Mountain State Park, North Carolina.

Departure time: Arrive at your convenience. Return Time: On your own schedule.

Rating: *easy*.

What to Bring: Camping equipment and food for days planned to stay.

Brief Description: There will be two-day hikes and one driving event.

Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Thursday, May 14, 2026 - Thursday Monthly Club Meeting - Our Group Camp at Stone Mountain, North Carolina will replace our regularly scheduled club meeting.

Monday, May 18, 2026 - Scenic Spur - Hike Leader: Anne Anderson.

Location: Rock Creek Gorge Scenic Area, Clemmer trailhead on Hwy 30.

Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: Unknown.

Hike Difficulty: Easy.

Bring: Bring water and snacks. pole or poles for crossing Rock Creek, water shoes if desired.

Brief Description: Hike is in/out. Total 3.2 miles with 403' elevation gain. There are two creek crossings that usually vary from ankle to calf deep. Rainbow Falls is at the end of the designated trail. If there is interest and it is not too muddy, there is an option to bushwhack to Chestnut Mountain Falls about 1/4 mile further. This is a joint hike with BMT association.

Contact: Email: ahander@aol.com; Cell Phone: 423-284-7032.

Thursday, May 21, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast - Join us for conversation over breakfast at 8:30 a.m. at Old Fort Restaurant on 25th Street in Cleveland. For more information, contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885.

Saturday, May 30, 2026 - Thursday, June 4, 2026 - Cumberland Gap National Historical Park Outing – Type “Wilderness Road Campground” in the search box at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). for reservations. Suggested Campsites are F-12 through F-17. There is good availability. Please let me know you are interested in participating by calling or texting me, 513-324-4564 or by email at jschneider@fioptics.com. See the outing description in the *2026 Calendar of Events*. Jerry Schneider

Wednesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 - 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 p.m.

A note on the walk is sent out the beginning of each week on Messenger. Hike difficulty is rated *easy*. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

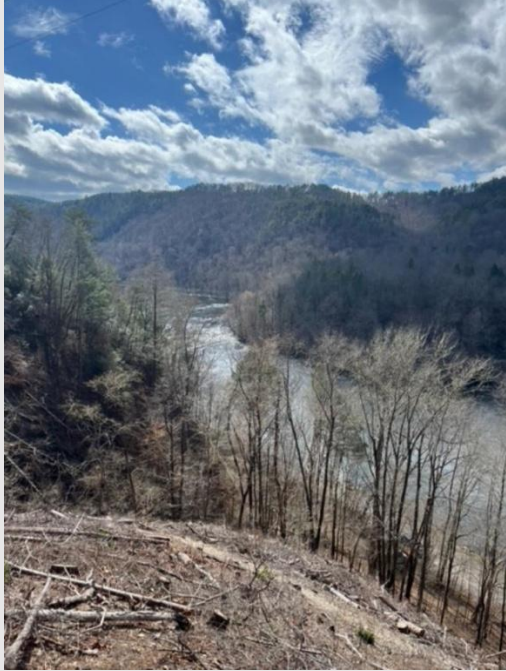
HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

Saturday, March 7, 2026, - Loop Hike Section 13D BMT-Anne Anderson

It was short sleeve weather for our hike on BMT 13D. Nine hikers spotted emerging ephemeral wildflowers like bloodroot, rue anemone and early saxifrage. After climbing up along Gold Mine Branch we ate lunch at the high top on McCulley Mountain. After lunch, our hike was all downhill to Towee Creek. This section has a shady cove, dry sunny woods, small creeks and beautiful winter views of the Hiwassee River.



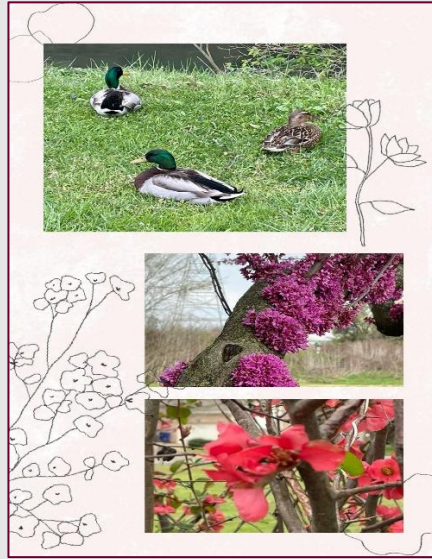
Hiwassee View



Clare Sullivan, Sarah Kennedy, Melissa Longmeyer



March Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway led by Jack Callahan



March 12, 2026, Monthly Meeting, Etowah Senior Center



Especially glad to see Dione.



Always camera-shy Jack.



Excellent presentation by Judy Norton.

VP Otis making himself useful.



Great to see Al Rymer, and he was one of the lucky door prize winners!

March 19, 2026, Hike Club Breakfast at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland, TN, hosted by Jack Callahan

Had a total of nine. Thanks again to Ann Gray for *The Great Walking Tour* book. (Forgot to grab a group shot 😊.)



March 20, 2026, Upper Big Lost Creek Falls Exploratory Hike

Joint BMTA & Cherokee Hiking Club Adventure

Leader: Richard Harris

Co-Leader: Brenda Harris

Participants: 11 (Me, Brenda, Barb Childress, Partrick Bowker, James Anderson, Buddy Arnold, Steve Dennison, Charlie Snow, John Hisey, Otis Pannell, Judy Norton and her dog)

Distance: 5 miles

Eleven hikers trudged over 5 creek crossings each way to reach the Upper Big Lost Creek Falls. This was a great day to do this, since the weather was warm and the creek levels were great—not too low or too high. This trail starts at the Lost Creek Campground and goes about 2.5 miles upstream to a side creek, Bearpen Branch, with the waterfalls only a short distance up that creek bed. There are several falls and cascades which carry the creek down about 200 feet in elevation. We were lucky that there was a lot of water coming over the falls with the recent rains.

This trail long ago was abandoned and had probably not been maintained since the 1990s. The Tellico/Ocoee Volunteer Trail Crew have spent four Thursdays reopening this trail with chainsaws and brushcutters and our hikers today cleared the last about half mile of the trail with hand saws and loppers. So now the trail is open and can be “easily” hiked, at least in comparison to just a month or so ago.

The first mile to the 2nd creek crossing is wide open and in great shape. After the creek crossing the trail gets sketchy in places. A work trip with tread repair tools is needed. Then the old railroad bed goes around a sharp bend where floods have all but obliterated the trail. Here we crossed the creek for the third time and re-crossed the fourth time to bypass this section. After this 3rd creek crossing, we started using loppers and handsaws to clear a trail which Rick Harris marked with yellow flagging tape, and we continued this work all the way to the final creek crossing at the junction with Bearpen Branch. We then travelled up the side branch to the falls, clearing some logs and doing some lopping on the way. We spent a good amount of time viewing and photographing the falls, then returned to the trailhead, enjoying the fruits of our labors and recrossing the waters 5 more times.

This waterfall hike is a real gem, and it is great that it has been reopened to the public. In the future weeks, the trail crew will perform some treadwork, remove a few more trees which are stepovers, paint blazes and install signage.

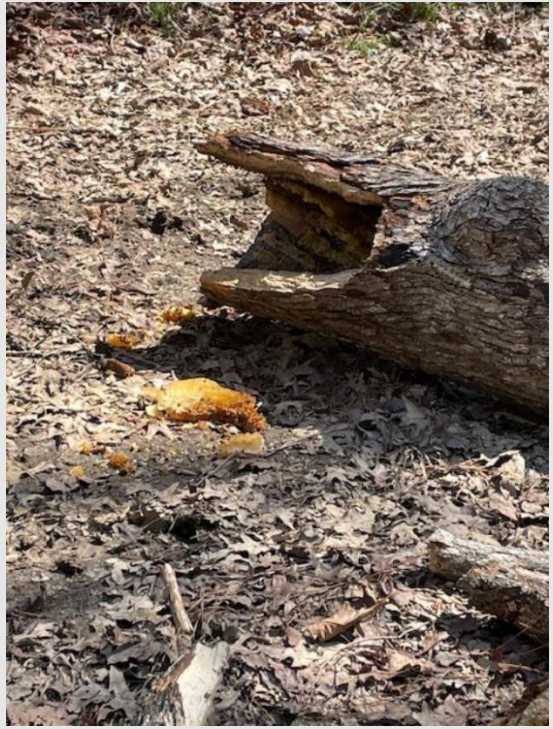




March 21, 2026, Chickamauga Battlefield, Jennifer Schroll

Twelve club members joined up for a 7+ mile loop hike through the battlefield area. There were a few early spring flowers but not much is blooming yet. It was a beautiful day, and we stopped to explore the Wilder Monument tower and grabbed a bite to eat. A few people had never been there before and indicated they would be back. It is a great place to hike and ride bikes. Since it hadn't rained in a few days, the trails were not muddy. Frequently the trails can be muddy or flooded. Near the end of our hike a tree with a beehive and fallen into the trail. Hikers included Jack & Margaret Callahan, Janet & Rob Coombs, Nettie & Jim Whisman, Carol Guhne, Otis Pannell, Catherine Sanders, Susan & Steven Rynas, and hike Leader Jennifer Schroll.





March 24, 2026, Johnston Woods, James Anderson

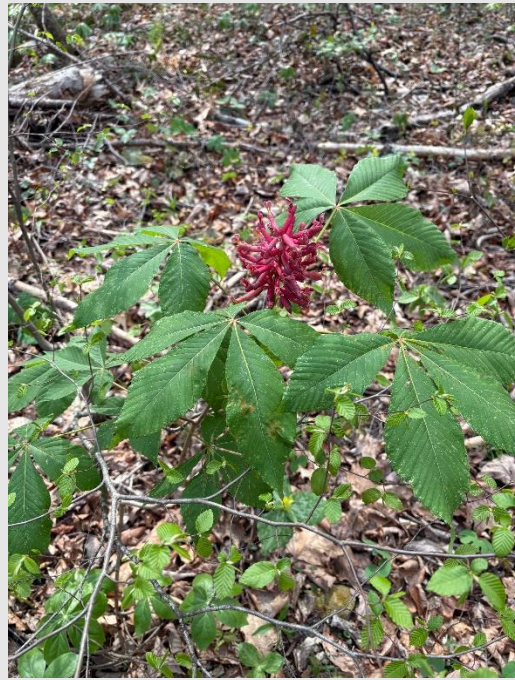
The four of us enjoyed a walk and talk in the Johnston Woods.



March 27, 2026, Rock Creek Segment of the Cumberland Trail, led by Randy Morris

Six hikers enjoyed a warm late March hike in this nice area just north of Sale Creek, TN. We first hiked to the Leggett Point Overlook to enjoy the nice viewpoint of the surrounding gorge area. We then hiked the Upper Rock Loop Trail where we were able to see quite a few early Spring wildflowers including blooming buckeyes, woodland phlox, and yellow trillium. Several early butterflies were enjoying the buckeye blossoms. We then hiked a portion of the Cumberland Trail within the gorge and viewed impressive rock formations, some good views of Rock Creek cascades and a few blooming firepink. We hiked around 6 miles and got in a good physical workout due to the climbs within the gorge and rocky terrain. Hikers included James Anderson, Buddy Arnold, Nina Barrow, Jerry Barrow, Henry Mahler and Randy Morris, hike leader.





Minutes

Cherokee Hiking Club
Monthly Club Meeting
6:00 p.m., March 12, 2026
Etowah Senior Center

President Rob Coombs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting Sign-in Sheet was distributed and 17 members signed. Margaret Callahan and Al Rymer won the *Tonight's Lucky Hiker* door prizes. Rob Coombs shared thoughts about his month's hike club quote "At the end of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time." T.S. Eliot

- I. The Treasure's Report was not available for this meeting.
- II. Corrections from the November minutes published in our newsletter.
 - A. No Corrections were made
 - B. A motion was made to accept the report as reported by Jack Callahan, seconded by Carol Gunhe, and accepted.
- III. Unfinished Business - No unfinished business to report
- IV. New Business
 - A. New members added to our club roster.
 1. None
 - B. Take advantage of our 2026 20-page calendar with over 90 events offered. There is something for everyone from easy to strenuous.
 - C.
 - C. Hikes / Meetings / Events since our last meeting.
 1. February 19, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast
 2. Friday, February 20, 2026 - Bald River Falls in the Winter - Hike Leaders - Brenda & Rick Harris
 3. March 7, 2026 - Loop Hike Section 13D BMT - Hike Leaders: Anne Anderson & Mary Alton.
 4. Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway, Jack Callahan
 - D. Hikes / Activities / Events scheduled for the month ahead.
 1. Thursday, March 19, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast
 2. Friday, March 20, 2025 - Exploratory Hike to Upper Lost Creek Falls- Hike Leaders - Rick & Brenda Harris
 3. Saturday, March 21, 2026 - Chickamauga Battlefield - Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll.
 4. Tuesday, March 24, 2026 - Johnston Woods - Hike Leader: James Anderson.
 5. Friday, March 27, 2026 - Rock Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail - Hike Leader: Randy Morris.
 6. Tuesday, March 31, 2026 - Black Mountain, Cumberland Trail - Hike Leader: Sue Robinson.

7. Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway -
 8. Friday, April 3, 2026 - BMT along Hiwassee River from Childers Creek to the Powerhouse - Hike Leaders - Brenda & Rick Harris
 9. Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - Shakerag Hollow - Hike Leader - Lucia Case.
- V. Our presentation for the evening is entitled the *History of Whitewater on the Ocoee River: The First Female Guide's Reflections* presented by Judy Norton.
- VI. Our next meeting will be held April 9, 2026. Our presentation for the evening will be *A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships* presented Tom Darden at the Etowah Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by Otis Pannel, Vice President on March 12, 2026

NON-CLUB OPPORTUNITIES

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

TELLICO/OCOEE VOLUNTEER TRAIL CREW

Check the Facebook page for future workdays.

BENTON MACKAYE TRAIL ASSOCIATION See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance sites.

TN/NC BMTA Work Trip

April 25, 2026

Leader: Rick Harris

Meet: Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center

Time: 8:30 AM

Section to be worked: 17D (Mud Gap to Beech Gap)

Planned Work: Mitigation/reworking of the trail between Unicoi Crest Overlook and Beech Gap. If there are enough folks, we will also do brushing and logging out of the section south of North River Road

Description: Some of you may recall the huge ravine which developed between the Unicoi Crest Overlook and Beech Gap. This was caused by runoff from the Skyway. It wiped out the bridge 3 times as we moved the bridge further down the ravine as the ravine widened and moved down the hill. We now cross the ravine at the bottom, about 50 feet below where the original bridge was. On the south side we built a switchbacked trail some years back. But we never did the same on the north side. Hikers have to climb up a steep and slippery bank on the edge of the ravine to reach the old trail bed. Our plans, which have been approved by the Cheoah District/Nantahala NF, are to mitigate this by putting in a switchback or two closer to the gully to reach the original trail tread safely. Also, there are other areas on this short quarter mile of trail which need fresh side hilling.

There are also a couple of big trees across the trail just south of North River Road we need to remove and brushing which will be needed in this stretch as well.

Afterwards, we can all eat an early supper (with beer) down in Tellico Plains.

Tools Needed: digging tread tools such as Pulaskis, MacLeods, Rouge hoes.
Chainsaws. Brushcutters, loppers, sling blades.

Exact plans and assignments will be forthcoming once we know who is coming.

Contact Person: Richard Harris, rharris@bmta.org, 513-260-1184 (cell, text)
See the calendar for upcoming events and trail maintenance sites.

