

THE CHEROKEE HIKER
MAY 2026
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 5

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

“Look deep into nature and you will understand everything better.” – Albert Einstein

For some time, I had looked forward to Tom Darden’s presentation on “A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships” and I was not disappointed. I am grateful for the intentionality of our country in seeking to manage and protect our forests. I, too, am grateful that our country continues to share with other countries what we have learned and how to implement strategies to save the natural resources of planet Earth. Tom, thank you again for the many contributions you made throughout your career and your willingness to share your work with us.

As summer in East Tennessee approaches it’s important for us to be increasingly aware of staying hydrated. Failure to do so can lead to some serious life-threatening conditions as our body progresses from dehydration to heat exhaustion to heatstroke. Dehydration is a harmful reduction in the amount of water in the body due to an excessive loss and/or inadequate intake of fluids. The two populations at the highest risk for dehydration are children and older adults. Since a few of our club members are approaching older adulthood, awareness and being adequately prepared can help avoid the harmful effects of dehydration. It’s especially important to pay attention to our bodies when participating in outdoor activities. Symptoms of dehydration such as thirst, headache, less frequent and/or dark colored urine, fatigue, and confusion indicate your body is becoming dehydrated. Ignoring these signs can lead to heat exhaustion, which is the body’s reaction to excessive loss of water and salt, usually through excessive sweating. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include headache, nausea, dizziness, weakness, irritability, thirst, heavy sweating, elevated body temperature, and decreased urine output. Heat exhaustion can lead to a heat stroke which occurs when the body can no longer control its temperature. Body temperatures rise to 106 in 10 to 15 minutes leading to permanent disability or death. Symptoms of heatstroke include confusion, slurred speech, loss of consciousness, seizures, and increasingly high body

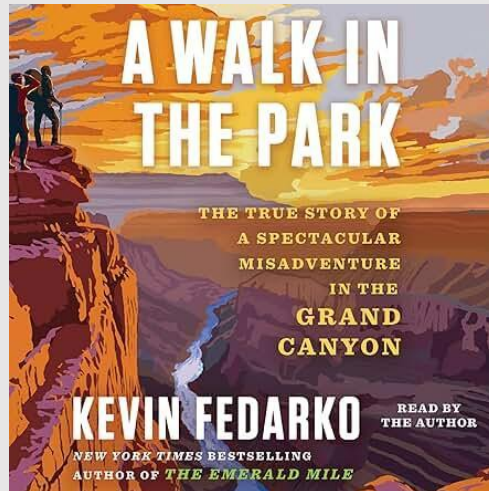
temperatures. To prevent this from happening, please take the following precautions: (1) check the weather and delay or cancel your plans if there is a heat advisory; (2) wear light-colored, loose-fitting clothing; (3) avoid the hottest part of the day; (4) hydrate, hydrate, hydrate - drink 16 oz. of water for each hour of hiking in the heat; (5) use a sun screen, wear a hat, and use sunglasses. I would be amiss if I did not include a final thought concerning hiking and hydration. Drinking leads to peeing. Peeing in the woods can lead to modesty issues. Modesty issues can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heatstroke. The only way to avoid becoming dehydrated is to drink and pee in the woods.

In place of our monthly meeting in May, our club will be participating in our annual group camp Monday - Thursday, May 10 - 14 in Stone Mountain, North Carolina. If you have not registered, please consider joining us. Group Camp is always an especially enjoyable outing for our club.

Rob Coombs, Club President



HIKE CLUB BOOK RECOMMENDATION . . .



A Walk in the Park, by Kevin Fedarko

Two friends, zero preparation, one dream. A few years after quitting his job to pursue an ill-advised dream of becoming a whitewater guide on the Colorado River, Kevin Fedarko was approached by his best friend, *National Geographic* photographer Pete McBride, with a vision as bold as it was harebrained. Together, they would embark on an end-to-end traverse of the Grand Canyon—a journey that, McBride promised, would be “a walk in the park.” Against his better judgment, Fedarko agreed, unaware that the small cluster of experts who had actually completed the crossing billed it as “the toughest hike in the world.”

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

MAY EVENTS

Friday, May 8, 2026 – (Note that this is a rescheduled date.) 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 that 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, 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 –

Update: Reserve a campsite at Wilderness Road Campground for May 30 to June 4, through Recreation.gov. The Coombs reserved an electric site, #51 in the B loop. Other tent campers and I will be nearby in Loop F, sites 15 - 18. Most sites are shaded; showers are available. Some sites offer electricity. The geologic and historic significance of the area includes a meteor strike that created a large depression where the city of Middlesboro sits. A resulting gap in the mountains allowed buffalo, native Americans, and 300,000 settlers to travel into Ky and westward. The Civil War also played a significant role in the history of the area. We will hike the same trail pioneers traveled through the gap and visit a high, primitive, farming community abandoned in the early fifties. Often described as the best area for hiking in Kentucky, the park features 80 miles of well-marked trails, inspiring views, a cave, a visitor center, and a history museum. High above the nearby town of Pineville is a rock chained to protect the town. We can go there too. Hikes range in difficulty from easy to strenuous. Reservations for the Hensely Settlement tour should be made by calling the park, (606) 248-2817, on or after May 1. A tour of Gap Cave can be reserved by calling the park on or after May 2. Call me with any questions and to let me know if you will attend the outing. Jerry Schneider, (513) 324-45642.

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.

JUNE AT-A-GLANCE

Thursday, June 11, 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 Steve Biatowas on *Riding Horseback Across America*.

Friday, June 12, 2026 - Turtletown Creek Falls - Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: Turtletown Creek Falls Trail. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 5 miles. Turtletown Creek plus two of the most beautiful falls you'll ever see on a short hike. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 - Huckleberry Knob - Hike Leaders - Margaret & Jack Callahan. Location: About 43 miles past North Carolina state line on the Tellico Plains. Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center at 10 a.m. to carpool. Departure time: 10:00 a.m. Return Time 4:00 p.m. Rating: Moderate. What to Bring: Lunch, warm clothing, rain gear, and a lightweight chair or blanket. Brief Description: This is a 2.5-mile round trip hike on a good trail. We will spend about 2 hours on the bald. Contact Email: Jackn1945@bellsouth.net. Cell phone: 423-284-7885.

Thursday, June 18, 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.

Thursday, June 18, 2026 - Boyd's Gap to Brush Creek - Hike Leader: Doug Lynch. Location: Meet at Boyd's Gap, Polk County Tennessee. Departure Time: 9:00 a.m. Return Time: 1:30 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: A very easy downhill hike of 7 miles. Very good trail. Contact Email: dhiker10@gmail.com; Cell Phone: 865-850-7243.

Saturday, June 20, 2026 - Gregory Bald - Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll. Location: Off Cades Cove in Smoky Mtn National Park. Departure Time: 7 a.m. Return Time: 10 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring: Water and lunch. Brief Description of the Hike: We will hike about 10 miles round trip starting from the Parsons Road Trailhead. There is significant elevation gain, but it will all be worth it if the Flame Azaleas are blooming. We will likely stop for dinner on the way home. Meet at the Cleveland Home Depot parking lot at 7 a.m. Contact: jennifergeologist@gmail.com; Cell phone: 423-284-1256.

Monday, June 22, 2026 - BMT - Hike Leader: Ken Cissna. Location: From Thunder Rock Campground, up Thunder Rock Express Trail, across Chestnut Trail, and down BMT. Hike Difficulty: Moderate. Brief Description: Dog friendly trail. 5.2 miles. Loop hike. Contact: kcissna@bmta.org.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 - Club Workday on Childers Creek Trail Maintenance - Hike Leader: James Anderson. This event is to carry out trail maintenance on a beautiful 3-mile section of the Benton MacKaye Trail that runs along the Hiwassee River just upstream and east of Reliance TN. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Big Bend Parking lot on the Hiwassee River which is at the easternmost end of this section. Return time will be mid to late afternoon. Further information will be released as the day of the event draws closer. Anyone planning to attend is encouraged to text or call James Anderson, the event leader, at 423-715-8824.

Friday, June 26, 2026 - The Hangover Cherohala Skyway - Hike Leaders: Rick & Brenda Harris (and Nahme, our dog). Location: Meet at Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center. Departure Time: 9 a.m. Return Time: 4 p.m. Hike Difficulty: Strenuous. Bring (food, water, etc.): Lunch, water, your dog on leash. Brief Description: THIS HIKE IS OPEN TO DOGS AND TO MEMBERS OF BOTH THE BMTA AND CHC. This 7.0 mile fairly difficult iconic hike takes us from the Wolf-Laurel Trailhead up 500' or so on the Stratton Ridge Trail to the BMT, then right on the BMT to Naked Ground (down 500'), then Haeo (up 500'), then on to the Hangover (down and up 200' or so). This is a must-do if you have never done it before and if you are healthy and strong enough to hike it. In places the trail is quite steep and rocky and there may be significant brambles to hike through. We will eat lunch at the Hangover, which is about a mile high

rocky overhang with great views into the Smokies, Santeetlah Lake, Tellico Lake and the Tennessee River, the Cumberland Plateau, and the ridgelines we just hiked. We will return the way we came. Afterwards, we can eat supper at one of the two Mexican Restaurants in Tellico Plains. This hike is in the Joyce Kilmer Slickrock Wilderness therefore we must limit it to 12 hikers. Contact: Email: HarrisRi1947@gmail.com Cell phone: 513-260-1184.

Wednesdays, June 3, 10, 17, 24 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway - Every Wednesday Jack Callahan leads a 3.75-mile walk on the Cleveland Greenway. Contact Jack Callahan at 423-284-7885 if you want to be included in the messages.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS

March 31, 2026, Black Mountain Hike, Leader, Sue Robinson

March 31st, seven of us hiked the 3.5 miles up to the top of black mountain. Along the way we stopped at the cave, and the abyss. We then came to the giant "cubes" and the scenic overlook for lunch break. Then, on the descent back down, we passed by the spring house and the two old foundations from the 1920-30's era. Bloodroot, phlox and trillium were blooming. After about eight miles of hiking, we went to The American Grill for cold drinks and food.



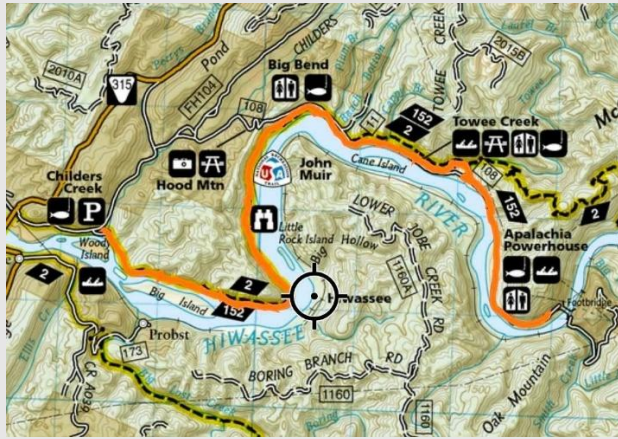


April 3, 2026, Hiwassee Loop, Hike Leaders: Richard & Brenda Harris
Distance: 6.3 miles; Participants (13 + 5 dogs): Richard & Brenda Harris (+Nahme), Sarah Kennedy, John Hisey, Stephanie Gordon, Rodger Gordon, Janna Hawkins (+Crockett), Doug Lynch, Jiliane Burley, Judy Norton (+Ellie), Tracey Piel, James & Gayle Drummond (+Sofi & Lacy).

This was a joint BMTA and Cherokee Hiking Club dog-friendly hike. Thirteen hikers and five dogs met at the Childers Creek Trailhead at 10 AM, then shuttled cars to the parking area by the powerhouse. We started from Childers Creek, hiking north on the BMT / JMT. The flowers were amazing, all varieties and colors. We saw fire pink, violets, azalea, trilliums, ragwort, plantain, phlox, dwarf crested irises, phacelia, and wild comfrey, to just name a few. The water in the river was low with the generators cut off. So, there were lots of fishermen wading out into the river. The weather was warm and sunny. The trail from Childers Creek to Big Bend was in excellent shape with only one small blowdown.

We ate lunch at Big Bend, then we travelled on the section from Big Bend to Towee Creek. There were about 8 blowdowns, one which was hard to get over and the trail is quite narrow and steep in places, making for some scary maneuvering. One hiker (we won't mention her name to protect the guilty) fell off the side of the trail down into the road but she was not injured. We have a report Saturday AM she is more embarrassed than sore.

We took a long break at Towee Creek, letting the dogs play in the water and talking with a family at the picnic tables. We then hiked on the somewhat new segment of trail to the switchbacks. There we exited onto the road and walked the rest of the way to the powerhouse area on the road. We snacked on homemade cookies and drinks at the cars, courtesy of the Harris's. Even Nahme got a cookie.





April Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway led by Jack Callahan



April 9, 2026, Monthly Meeting, Etowah Senior Center Tom Darden's gave a presentation entitled, "A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships."



April 14-16, Chief Ladiga and Silver Comet Bicycle Trip, Hike Leaders, Rob and Janet Coombs

The Chief Ladiga Trail is a rail-trail pathway winding through northeast Alabama until it reaches the Georgia line where it connects to The Silver Comet Trail. Our group, consisting of Janet & Rob Coombs, James Anderson, Lucia Case, Otis Pannell, Jerry Barrow, and Bob DeLoach bicycled just under 100 miles over three days, beginning on The Chief Ladiga Trail in Jacksonville, Alabama and ending at the terminus of the Silver Comet Trail in Smyrna, Georgia. Both trails are paved and well-maintained. The weather was very pleasant during our rides with slightly cool mornings and comfortable, sunny afternoons. The trails were well-marked and had historical plaques in some places.

Day 1: Departing from Jacksonville, Alabama, much of the Chief Ladiga trail weaves through natural landscapes and past a couple of small towns. We enjoyed a delicious and entertaining lunch at Elevated Grounds cafe in Piedmont. The next section of trail traveled through the Talladega National Forest and the southern foothills of the Appalachian mountains, crossing the Pinhoti hiking trail. At the eastern end of the Chief Ladiga, we connected to the Silver Comet Trail and entered Georgia. We pushed on to Cedartown, completing 42 miles of riding for the day, and were rewarded with a pasta dinner at Zorba's before retiring to our hotel rooms.

Day 2: In the morning we visited the Cedartown train depot before continuing on the Silver Comet trail. The next section of trail around Rockmart had significant rolling hills which was a change from the previous day's slow, steady elevation gain. We ate our packed lunches in a lovely park in Rockmart. The views during this day included going through a 700 ft railroad tunnel, and under several tall train trestles. We stayed overnight in Hiram, Georgia.

Day 3: During the last 17 miles of the ride we encountered more trail users as we bicycled in and out of residential areas. Our ride ended at the Mavell Road Trailhead in Smyrna, Georgia. An "interesting" repurposed bus shuttled us back to our cars in Jacksonville, Alabama and we headed for home.

We enjoyed the time together with friends and the bicycle trail experiences. The participants commented that both trails would be worth visiting again, whether for a shorter day trip or to repeat the longer ride.







April 16, 2026, Hike Club Breakfast at Old Fort Restaurant in Cleveland, TN, hosted by Jack Callahan



April 14, 2026, Ijams Nature Center, Event Leader, Jack Callahan

On Tuesday April 14, 2026, six wildflower enthusiasts met at the Ijams Nature Center. The group first hiked a loop trail that went by the small pond and up to the former home and gardens of the previous owners. Along the way we saw several amphibious creatures and many wildflowers including poppies, Jack in the Pulpit, twin leaf, and larkspur.

Around the homesite were pawpaws in bloom, quince, germander speedwell, and blooming ginger. A picnic on the grounds with great conversation, then another loop hike following the boardwalk along the river and back to the visitor center. Beautiful weather and lots of flowers, birds, and good friends made it a special trip.





April 24, 2026, Whigg Meadow to Beech Gap, Hike Leaders, Richard & Brenda Harris

Participants: Richard & Brenda Harris, John Hisey, Stepanie & Rodger Gordon, and Nahme (the Harris dog) Distance: 5.0 Miles

Brenda and I led a hike on the section we maintain for the BMT, a distance of 5 miles from Whigg Meadow to Beech Gap including the walk up to the top of the bald. The weather was sunny and clear, though there was a haze probably due to wildfires in the area. As the day progressed, clouds moved in prior to the expected rain event on Saturday.

We met at the Cherohala Skyway Visitor Center at 9 AM and carpoled to Beech Gap. Then we all got in one car and drove to Whigg Meadow. It was cool up there at 5000', at about 56 degrees. Rick discussed the history of Whigg Meadow, the grave over to the side of the bald, the annual bird counts, bear encounters on the bald during huckleberry season and the work being done to plant more Balsam Fir trees on the bald. We then hiked toward Mud Gap. The trail is in excellent shape and we only came upon one single blowdown.

From Mud Gap, we visited the gravesite of the unknown soldier killed by the Kirkland Bushwackers during the Civil War. We then hiked to the field in the old quarry used to build the Skyway. There we discussed to airplane crash into Johns Knob at the quarry, killing 9 servicemen. We then hiked to the North River Rd crossing where we ate lunch and ran into a couple dirt bikers who took our picture. The Skyway was noisy today with lots of motorcycles and fancy roadsters roaring down the highway.

After lunch, we climbed up the steep trail to the ridgetop and followed the ridge to the switchbacks down to the Unicoi Crest Overlook on the Skyway. We crossed through the parking lot and continued on the BMT to the deep ravine caused by runoff from the Skyway. We viewed the plans to remediate this problem by constructing a segment of

trail down along the ravine then back up the other side. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the work trip to do this remediation for Saturday due to the incoming rain event with thunderstorms expected on Saturday.

We then made our way to Beech Gap then drove back to Whigg Meadow to retrieve our other vehicle. It was a great cool somewhat windy day hiking at high elevations.



Minutes

Cherokee Hiking Club
Monthly Club Meeting
6:00 p.m., April 9, 2026
Etowah Senior Center

President Rob Coombs opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. The meeting Sign-in Sheet was distributed and 25 members signed. Carol Guhne won the *Tonight's Lucky Hiker* door prize. Rob Coombs shared thoughts about his month's hike club quote "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

- I. Treasury Report - Jennifer Schroll
 - A. Previous month balance - \$3,310.36
 - B. Any debts or corrections - \$100.00 donation from the Smokey Mountain Hiking Club, Knoxville, TN to honor our efforts with trail maintenance.
 - C. Current balance - 3,306.80
 - D. A motion was made to accept the report as reported by Carol Guhne, seconded by Lucia Case, and accepted.
- 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 Dione Butler, and accepted.
- III. Unfinished Business - No unfinished business to report
- IV. New Business
 - A. New members added to our club roster.
 1. Jana & Gene Davis Hawkins
 2. Lauren & John Hisey
 3. Sarah Kennedy
 - B. Take advantage of our 2026 20-page calendar with over 90 events offered. There is something for everyone from easy to strenuous.

- C. Hikes / Meetings / Events since our last meeting.
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.
- D. Hikes / Activities / Events scheduled for the month ahead.
1. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Ijams Nature Center - Hike Leaders - Margaret & Jack Callahan.
 2. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 - Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Silver Comet + Chief Ladiga Trail - Led by Janet & Rob Coombs.
 3. Thursday, April 16, 2026 - Monthly Hike Club Breakfast - Leader - Jack Callahan
 4. Friday, April 24, 2026 - BMT – Whigg Meadow to Beech Gap - Hike Leaders - Rick & Brenda Harris
 5. Saturday, April 25, 2026 - Walls of Jericho - Hike Leader: Jennifer Schroll.
 6. Tuesday, April 28, 2026 - Big Creek Trail - Hike Leader - Jack Callahan
 7. Friday, May 1, 2026 - Flats Mountain Hike - Brenda & Rick Harris
 8. Monday - Friday, May 4 - 8, 2026 - Linville Gorge, NC, Backpack - Hike Leader - Buddy Arnold.
 9. Friday - May 8, 2026 - Brush Creek Trail - Hike Leader: Ken Cissna.
 10. Sunday - Thursday, May 10 - 14, 2026 - Stone Mountain, North Carolina
 11. Wednesdays, April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Wednesday Walks on the Cleveland Greenway - Every Wednesday - Jack Callahan Leader - Jack Callahan.
- V. Our presentation for the evening is entitled the *A New Perspective for Forestry and Wildlife Conservation in India: Saving Tigers Through Partnerships* presented by Tom Darden.
- VI. In lieu of our next meeting, our club will hold our annual group camp May 11-14, 2026.

Respectfully submitted by

Janet Coombs substituting for Otis Pannel, Vice President on April 9, 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.

