

The Cherokee Hiker

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Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 2349 Varnell Road • Cleveland, TN 37311
www.cherokeehikingclub.org

~CHC Calendar~

October 4	Cleveland State Work Trip
October 9	Monthly Meeting
October 12	Lookout Mountain
October 18	John Muir Hike & Clean-up
October 25	Hangover Trail
November 1	Possum Creek Gorge

OCTOBER HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

October 4 – Cleveland State Work Trip & Trail Opening!

Leader: Diana Ristom

We will complete the new trail connector and continue with improvements there and possibly at other places along the trail. A short opening ceremony will take place with the unveiling of one of the new signposts. Please bring your favorite trail tool (shovel, rake, mattock, etc. - some tools will be available for use onsite) and join us Saturday morning at Cleveland State at 8:00 AM. (Park at the tennis courts.) If it's a pretty day, work will go on as long as there are willing laborers. (Bring a lunch if you like.)

October 12 - Bluff Trail at Lookout Mountain, 4.5 miles, Easy (Metal steps at end, Moderate)

Leader: Gail Gray

Part of the trail near Point Park follows an old narrow-gauge railroad bed known as the Dinky Line. This line used to bring passengers up to the mountain from St. Elmo at a time when most of the mountain homes were known as "summer homes." The trail passes under Sunset Rock on West Brow Road. At several places along the hike some of the beautiful homes on Lookout Mountain can be seen above the trail.

Meet at the Park and Ride lot on Georgetown Road NW beside the Mr. Zip at Georgetown and Candies Lane at 1:00 PM sharp. We'll carpool down and then form a shuttle between the two points. This is an easy, downhill hike except for the hundreds of steel steps up to Point Park. There is a \$3 charge to get out of Point Park, but I'll have my Golden Passport. It should only cost \$1.50 each. Correct change would be wonderful to repay your hike leader.

October 18 – John Muir Trail Clean-up, 3 or 6 miles, Easy.

Leader: Clayton Pannell

Leave Etowah Bi-Lo at 8:15 AM. Meet in the parking lot across from the Hiwassee Corner Market at Hwy 411 & 30 at 8:30 AM or at Childers Creek trail head at 9 AM. The trail is in good shape; we may need to pick up trash, do some lopping and other trail work. This trip will be more hiking than trail work

(no work required to come on this trip). Some may want to do a shuttle for a 3 mile hike; others may hike in both directions for a 6 mile hike. Bring lunch, water and other hiking gear and maybe a pair of gloves.

October 25 – Hangover Trail, 9 Miles, Difficult.

Leader: Diana Ristom

Views from the Hangover are some of the most spectacular in the southeast, especially in fall color season (which should be at its peak), and the only way to get there is by foot. Highlights along the way will include the open meadow with great views just before reaching Stratton Bald, and across Naked Ground. The approach is set as the easiest of several options, going in from Beech Gap, though this may change if everyone wants more of a climb. (1600-ft and 3000-ft climbs are possible.) This day hike may also become an overnight backpack for folks who would like. Depending on whether there's enough time and all are feeling energetic, we'll take a short side trip out the upper Ballbuster for additional views.

Please contact the trip leader to register as Wilderness restrictions impose a limit on group size.

(Please also let me know your preferences on challenge and duration for the outing.) Bring your blaze orange and your camera!

November 1 – Possum Creek Gorge, 8+ Miles, Moderate to Difficult.

Leader: Randy Morris

We will hike part of the Possum Gorge Segment of the Cumberland Trail (CT) to Imodium Falls for a total mileage of 8.8 miles. There is one stream crossing over Little Possum Creek which could be interesting if there has been significant rain just before the hike date. Volunteers are presently constructing bridges on the CT in the area so there is the possibility the problem could be eliminated. I have an email out at present asking for an update. The gorges in this section of the Cumberland are quite beautiful. I will have more information after I have had a chance to “preview” the hike so check the club’s website closer to the hike date for more details. In the meanwhile you can check out the hike on the CT website at www.cumberlandtrail.org.

We will meet at the commuter parking lot off of Exit 25 in Cleveland at 8:30 a.m. for the trip over to Sale Creek to begin the hike. If interested in attending, please call Randy by Friday evening, October 31 for further information.

***NOTE:** As a courtesy, **ALWAYS** contact the hike leader **in advance** of the hike to facilitate planning.*

Club News

September Meeting Minutes: The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held on September 11, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the First Baptist Church of Benton. There were 23 members and 6 guests attending. Thanks to Evette Strickland and Belinda Mantooth for arranging this meeting place. Following a potluck meal, President Randy Morris called the business session to order at 7:20 PM. Since we had several new people, we had introductions by the group. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and were approved as read. The Treasurer’s report was omitted.

The club will send cards to Gayle Jones and to Julie, James Anderson’s daughter. Gayle is at home following surgery. Julie is improving and will soon enter a rehabilitation center. Please keep Gayle, Julie and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Rick Harris presented an interesting power point presentation using maps and photos to report on his and James Anderson’s hike on the Continental Divide Trail on the Wind River Range in Wyoming.

New Business: Rick Harris, our representative for the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition, presented information about the organization and requested that the club discuss and vote at the next meeting whether to support the SEFTC and their by-laws. He also spoke of the financial support necessary to continue the coalition, since the American Hiking Society no longer funds SEFTC. One option is to increase club dues by \$1.00 per year with all proceeds going to SEFTC.

Jeff Hunter, with the Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, spoke on proposals which would increase acreage designated as wilderness in Big Frog, Little Frog, Upper Bald River and the Joyce Kilmer/Slickrock Wilderness and Wilderness Study Areas. Clayton Pannell presented arguments regarding the negative impact of increasing wilderness areas and requested we not support the expansion *as a club*. Clayton also gave details of his experience maintaining trails over the years, echoing comments made by Ken Jones (found on our website) regarding the Upper Bald River Area as wilderness. The club will vote at a later date on whether we wish to support the expanded wilderness area.

INFORMATION REGARDING SEFTC & THE PROPOSED WILDERNESS EXPANSION CAN BE ACCESSED VIA THE CLUB WEBSITE AT www.cherokeehikingclub.org. We will have a vote about supporting SEFTC at the October club meeting so **please review the information**.

Richard Carroll, a representative of the Boy Scouts in the Cleveland area, spoke and requested that the club lead 1-2 hikes for the scouts. This request will be discussed at the next meeting.

Old Business: Club tee shirts are still available in all sizes.

Hikes completed: See Below

Upcoming hikes: See Above.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

October Club Meeting: The October 9 meeting will be held at the home of Al Rymer beginning about 5:30 with supper around 6:15. Al will provide hotdogs & fixings. Bring a covered dish, a lawn chair and roasting sticks if you have them; drinks & ice are provided by the club.

Recent Hike & Event Reports

September 20 – Chestnut Mountain

Three hikers made the hike starting at Iron Gap hiking the Chestnut Mountain Trail through the Gee Creek Wilderness. This trail was an old road at one time. We had some good views into the Gee Creek Wilderness and into the valley around Wetmore. Coffee Branch Trail was a jeep road at one time but now is for horses and hikers only. It is in very good shape and could be driven on if the gate were open. It was a great day for a hike with no rain; not even a cloud in the sky. Hikers were Jim Ruyon, Randy Morris and Clayton Pannell.

~submitted by Clayton Pannell

September 27 – Conasauga River Trail

A hearty turnout of hikers totaling 17 (13 members and 4 guest hikers) met to hike the 4.6 miles on a cool, overcast morning, but it soon warmed up once on the trail. Parts of the trail are in need of a good lopping, with briars and tree seedlings encroaching on the pathway, but most of it was in pretty good

shape. Seeing scat in the trail, we were watchful for other signs of wildlife, but the only thing seen was a nice school of “sizeable” fish in the river. Hikers were Martha Firestone, Rebecca Levings & son Brendan, Maggie Griffin, Phyllis & Mike Callaway, Esther Nunley, Aggie Scott, Gail & Edmond Gray, Joanne Jackson, Jane Bohannon, Belinda Mantooth, Debbie Arnold, Debbie Flower and her dog Abby, Shirley Jones, and Luther Allen. It was a great day for a hike, and a good time was had by all.
~submitted by Martha Firestone

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