

The Cherokee Hiker

October 2009 Volume 25, Issue 10

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

~CHC Calendar~

Oct 3 – Fiery Gizzard (10 mi) mod-strenuous. Leader: Randy Morris and Debbie Flower

Oct 8 – Monthly Club Meeting, 6:30 pm

Oct 10 – Hangover Lead Bob Bald (9 mi) difficult. Leader: Rick Harris

Oct 11 – BMTA Hike

Cancelled Oct 17 – Wagon Train Trail Brasstown Bald (4 mi) moderate. Leader: Ann Gray

Oct 18 – Lookout Mountain Bluff Trail (4.5 mi) easy. Leader: Gail Gray

Oct 24 – BMTA TN/NC Worktrip

Oct 31 – Laurel Falls (5 mi) easy-mod. Leaders: Bob and Effaleda Lee – joint with Hiwassee Club

OCTOBER HIKES & OTHER EVENTS

October 3, 2009 -Saturday- Fiery Gizzard (10 miles) moderate-strenuous. Leaders: Randy Morris and Debbie Flower

Brief Description: This trail features cascading streams, waterfalls, over-looks (Raven Point), spectacular rock formations (Chimney Rock) and a 500 year old hemlock tree.

Difficulty rating: moderate if we take the fiery Gizzard Trail to the Dog Hole Trail

Meeting Place: TBA

Hike Leaders: Randy Morris

Trail Description: This trail is one of the most diverse and beautiful in the state of TN. It has been ranked as one of the top twenty-five backpacking trails in the US by Backpacker magazine.

Thursday, Oct 8, Monthly Meeting, 6:30 pm. Baptist Student Center Building on the CSCC Campus at 1475 Norman Chapel Rd. N.W. Bring a covered dish item as usual *Please note hike just prior to meeting as listed below.*

Suzanne Bennett and Randy have worked out the details for the pre-meeting hike on October 8. Please see details below:

Suzanne Bennett of Cleveland State (and a member of the Cherokee Hiking Club) will lead a hike on the CSCC nature trail (which the club has adopted) prior to the October 8 meeting. If interested in going on the short hike please meet in the parking lot below the tennis courts on the CSCC campus at 5:30 p.m. The tennis courts are located on Adkisson Drive—turn right off of Norman

Chapel and they will be on your left—approximately ¼ mile away—just past the baseball field. The trail is about 1 mile in length. If you have any questions, just let me know (from)

October 10, Sat. Hangover Lead Bob Bald (9 mi) difficult. Leader: Rick Harris.

Sunday, Oct 11 – BMTA Hike (www.BMTA.org)

Cancelled Oct 17 – Wagon Train Trail Brasstown Bald (4 mi) moderate. Leader: Ann Gray

Sunday, Oct 18 – Lookout Mountain Bluff Trail (4.5 mi) easy. Leader: Gail Gray

Saturday, Oct 24 – BMTA TN/NC Worktrip. Leader: Rick Harris (www.BMTA.org)

Saturday, October 31, 2009- Laurel Falls Segment of Cumberland Trail. Easy, moderate, 5 miles.
Leaders: Bob and Effaleda Lee

Laurel Falls is located in the Laurel Snow State Natural Area outside of Dayton. The nature area features both Laurel Falls and the smaller Snow Falls, plus an old coal mine, the remains of the old Dayton Reservoir, and lots of scenery. Huge boulders are in view along the way. We will hike only to Laurel Falls. Leaves should be in color depending on the season .

The trail to Laurel Falls follows Richland Creek upstream, and starts out on an old road left over from the coal mining days and is flat and level. After a mile, just before the old reservoir, the trail climbs a bit and becomes much narrower. Another 1/4 mile or so takes you to a bridge over Laurel Creek. The final segment of the trail is a short steep climb with several switchbacks to the base of Laurel Falls. The trail can be a little hard to follow in spots, and at one point you climb through a hole in the rocks.

The falls is an 80 foot plunge, followed by a long series of cascades whose total drop must be a few hundred feet. This being the driest time of the year, water coming over the falls may be diminished.

This is a joint hike of the Hiwassee and Cherokee Hiking Clubs. Meet at Belks Plaza ready to leave at 9 a.m. We will regroup at Hardees in Dayton on Highway 27 North at 9:45 to meet the Cherokee hikers not meeting us in Athens. The natural area is located off of US 27 in Dayton. From US 27 head west on Walnut Grove Road. This is a paved road. Follow this for 3/4 and take a left onto Back Valley Road. Follow this for about .7 miles to and take a right on the dirt road at the Laurel-Snow sign. There will be a church on the opposite side of the road. The dirt road is a mile long and ends at the trail head.

Hike distance is approximately 5 miles rated easy to moderate with rough footing in places. Elevation gain is about 700 feet. Bring water, rain gear, and lunch. Hiking boots are recommended.

Leaders: Effaleda and Bob Lee

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

Club News

Please see article below regarding annual SEFTC meeting in 2010

SEFTC Annual Meeting

May 20-23, 2010

By George Owen, chair of SEFTC Planning Committee

The Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) will hold its next annual meeting at Monteagle, TN, May 20-23, 2010. We invite you to place this on your calendar now and prepare for a great event of hikes, programs, and workshops. The event will be at the DuBose Conference Center of the Episcopal Church at Monteagle, located atop the Cumberland Plateau fifty miles northwest of Chattanooga. Nearby is Interstate 24, the Cumberland Trail and many scenic hiking opportunities including Savage Gulf and Fiery Gizzard. The DuBose facility is located just a mile off Interstate 24 between Chattanooga and Nashville. Final details of the conference housing, meals, and cost are being worked out. You will be notified both through this newsletter and on the BMTA website (www.bmta.org) when registration forms and further event details are available in the weeks ahead. The DuBose Center was the site years ago of one of the early SEFTC general meetings.

The Cherokee Hiking Club is well-represented on the SEFTC governing board by Rick Harris, who serves as the SEFTC Vice-President.

September Club Minutes

Cherokee Hiking Club Minutes

September 10, 2009

Sugarloaf Park

The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held on September 10, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Sugarloaf Park. Eighteen members and three guests attended. Following a delicious potluck meal, President Randy Morris called the business meeting to order at 7:22 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and were approved as read. Treasurer Ann Gray reported a current balance.

Old business: A followup was mentioned on getting the CSCC trail blazed.

New business: A committee will be selected at the next meeting to nominate club officers for the upcoming year 2010.

Rick Harris discussed the BMTA Annual Meeting which will be held at the Coker Creek Village on November 6-8, 2009. Some hikes scheduled on those days are on the Unicoi Turnpike, Warriors Passage, Coker Creek Falls Trail, and the Unicoi Gap to Hwy 68. The meeting and hikes will be open to anyone whether you are a BMTA member or not. There will be a club display set up at the Autumn Gold Festival at Coker Creek. Our club trifold will be displayed there.

Hikes completed: Randy reported on the Smokies high altitude Hike. Joanne Jackson reported on the Hooper Bald and Huckleberry Knob hike led by Bob and Effaleda Lee. Trail maintenance reports were given by Rick Harris and Clayton Pannell.

Upcoming hikes: The September 20 Hiwassee canoe trip will be led by Clayton Pannell. The LenFoote overnight hike will be led by Gary Harwell September 19-20. Jane and Sheila Bailey will co-lead the Blood Mountain Trail September 12. On September 19 Ruth Gafford from the Hiwassee Club will lead

the power house section of the John Muir Trail. Debbie Flower and Randy Morris will lead the Fiery Gizzard trail October 3. Rick Harris will lead the Hangover Lead Trail October 10.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. October 8 at the Baptist Student Center Building on the CSCC Campus at 1475 Norman Chapel Rd. N.W. Bring a covered dish item as usual. The November meeting will be at Michael's Restaurant in Etowah. The December 10 meeting will be at Antonio's Restaurant in Cleveland.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Bohannon, Secretary

Recent Hike & Event Reports

Hike Report for Blood Mountain Trail on Saturday September 12, 2009 ~ submitted by Jane Bohannon

Seven hikers did the four mile trek up and down Blood Mountain which is the highest peak on Georgia's portion of the AT. Everyone was great to pitch in and help out on this one since our hike leader, Gail Gray, was ill and couldn't lead this hike. The fog lifted soon after we got on the trail allowing us magnificent views. We ate lunch on the rocks near the old stone cabin built by the CCC in the 1930's as an AT shelter. We had a very experienced hiker from Chattanooga, Bill Kinnaman, join us. He has done all of the AT except for a short section in Maine. We identified the following wild flowers: joe pye weed, rattlesnake plantain, turtleheads, orange jewel weed, beauty berry bush, foamflower, pipsissewa, goldenrod, white snakeroot, and black-eyed susans. We stopped by the Outfitter's Store for AT hikers and quenched our thirsts there. One group ate at the Dam Deli at Ocoee on the way home. Participants were: Sunni Campbell, Joanne Jackson, Jennifer Schroll, Kathy Seymour, and Bill Kinnaman(guest). Co-leaders: Sheila Bailey and Jane Bohannon

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