

The Cherokee Hiker

April 2010 Volume 26, Issue 4

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

~CHC Hike Calendar~

April 17, 2010 – Saturday. Three Forks to Springer Mtn, 10.4 mi roundtrip

April 18, 2010 – Sunday. Indian Boundary Loop Hike, 3.6 mi. roundtrip

April 24, 2010 – Saturday. John Muir Cleanup Hike, 3-6 mi roundtrip

April 28, 2010 – Wednesday. Nell's Cabin, 4 mi roundtrip

APRIL HIKES

April 3, Saturday - Wildflower Hike has been cancelled. This hike may be rescheduled for a later date, possibly in 2011. An alternate wildflower hike by the **Sequatchie Valley Institute**, at their farm called "Moonshadow" near Jasper, TN, is taking place on April 3 day at 11:00 a.m., and also on **Saturday, April 17**, at the same time. There will be easy and more strenuous versions of these hikes. The hikes will be accompanied by expert naturalist **John Johnson** of UT. Moonshadow is a sustainable agriculture/organic farm/project that I (Rebecca Levings) have visited, and my son and I picked strawberries, and purchased delicious free-range sausage from. It's a very interesting place. A small donation is requested. For more information, see the wildflower hike information at: <http://svionline.org/events/795/wildflower-hike-3/>.

Also, the **Alabama Wildflower Society**, to which Club members **Leon and Pat Bates** belong, is hosting an intriguing set of events, including wildflower hikes, on the weekend of **April 9-11**. See more information below.

April 17, Saturday - Three Forks to Springer Mountain & Back, 10.4 miles, strenuous
Hike leader: Randy Morris. This hike covers parts of the Benton-Mackaye Trail and Section 1 of the Appalachian Trail. We will drive to the Three Forks area below Blue Ridge off GA Highway 60 and do a loop hike covering the first sections of both the AT and BMT long-distance trails. These sections have lots to offer—good views, old growth hemlock trees and the history and thrill of being on the first section of each famous trail. Hopefully we will enjoy various wildflowers in bloom. This hike is rated strenuous due to the length and changes in elevation—around 1,200 feet up and down. I am planning on an average pace of about 2 mph. Hopefully Hwy. 64 will be finished by the hike date—it is now scheduled for completion the day before, which will shorten our drive. Otherwise we will be forced to go south to Ellijay and then back north. We will eat in Blue Ridge after the hike—probably at the Serenity Garden Café, which we really enjoyed last year after an area hike. Call Randy Morris at 423-650-0485 no later than 9 p.m. on Friday evening, April 16, if interested in attending, or for more details. It will be a long day, but it should be a great one!

April 18, Sunday - Indian Boundary Loop, 3.6 miles, easy

Hike leaders: Effaleda and Bob Lee. Indian Boundary Lake is picturesque and the view of Flats Mountain is very scenic. The trail is almost flat with very little elevation change. We will share the trail with bikes, which have the right of way. This is a joint hike of the Cherokee and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs. Meet at Comcast in Athens ready to leave at 1:30. Cherokee hikers may meet us in Athens or at Hardee's in Tellico Plains at 2:15. As you enter Indian Boundary, stay on the road to the left, pass the primitive camping area, bear right until you reach the boat ramp parking area. Rest rooms are available in the primitive camping area. The parking lot is a non-fee area. If you are planning to attend, please contact Effaleda or Bob Lee at 423-568-2501, cell 423-507-5582.

April 24, Saturday - John Muir Cleanup Hike, 3 or 6 miles, easy

Hike Leaders: Debbie Flower, Clayton Pannell. We will meet at Childer's Creek Trail Head at 9:00 a.m. The hike is a beautiful, easy 3 mile trail along the Hiwassee River. It can be either a 3 mile or a 6 mile hike depending on time and car shuttle. Please bring gloves, clippers, water and a snack/lunch. Trash bags will be provided. If you plan on attending, please call the hike leaders by Friday evening, April 23rd.

Directions: If coming from Cleveland, go to and through Benton, turn right onto Rt. 30 towards Reliance, cross the bridge at Webb's Store, cross the railroad tracks, turn immediately right at Rosie's Restaurant and follow the road until Childer's Creek, sign on right. If you plan to attend, please contact Debbie Flower at 476-3907, or Clayton Pannell at 423-263-9730.

Information about the Hemlock Aphids that have arrived on the John Muir Trail, from Randy:

I got a report yesterday (3-28) that the Hemlock Aphids are now on most of the hemlocks along the club-maintained section of the John Muir Trail from Childers Creek to Big Bend. We have discussed somewhat if the club would be interested in working with the Forest Service to release some predatory beetles along the trail in the hopes of saving some of the trees. Be thinking about whether you would support using some club funds to purchase beetles. We will discuss it soon and plan a course of action if the membership supports the effort.

April 28, Wednesday - Nell's Cabin Hike, 4 miles, rated easy.

Hike leaders: Brenda and Rick Harris. We will meet at 8 a.m. in the old Walmart parking lot in Madisonville, next to the Ingles, or at the Hardee's lot in Tellico Plains at 8:30. We will drive the skyway to Robbinsville, and from there to the trail on the edge of Fontana Lake. Bring a lunch for the hike. Afterwards, we will go to Rick and Brenda's house to watch the movie, *Nell*, and eat popcorn. Go to the blurb on this hike at [this link](#) on the Club website; this blurb has lots of interesting information. The film *Nell* was filmed close to this area, and the Nell in the movie (played by Jodie foster) lived in the cabin. For information on the movie, check out http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nell_%28film%29. For more information on the hike, contact Rick or Brenda Harris, 423-253-6358 home, or 513-260-1184 cell, email HarrisRi@aol.com. This is a joint hike of the Sequoyah, Cherokee and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs.

Other hikes in April: be sure to check the club website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org> for more April hikes that may be planned on short notice.

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

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

April 8, Thursday – Monthly Club Meeting, 6:30 p.m., at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Etowah. This meeting will be our annual joint meeting with the **Hiwassee Hiking Club**. Food will be pot luck, so bring your favorite dish. The evening's speaker will be club member **Russ**

Miller who will speak on wilderness survival (as well as a brief discussion of first aid). Russ is a very experienced wilderness safety consultant with vast experiences—including being the Risk for the 1996 Olympics on the Ocoee River. He teaches classes for whitewater guides, industry first responders and others—including the class “Wilderness First Responder”. For more information, check out his website at www.wsc2.com.

Directions are as follows:

The Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church is at the corner of 10th St. and Ohio Ave in Etowah. If you are traveling north on Hwy 411 (Tennessee Ave.), turn left onto 10th Street. The church is one block from Hwy 411 (Tennessee Ave.) at the corner of Ohio Ave. and 10th St. If you are traveling south on Hwy 411, turn right onto 10th Street. Parking is on 10th Street and in the rear near the social hall.

April 9-11, Friday-Sunday – “Spring in Tennessee”

The **Alabama Wildflower Society**, to which CHC members **Leon and Pat Bates** also belong, is hosting an early wildflower adventure, to be led by Leon & Pat. CHC members are welcome. The following blurb about this event is from the Spring newsletter of the AWS (Vol 40, Issue 1). (*Emphases are mine*):

This trip to the southern Blue Ridge will provide AWS members with a glimpse of familiar plants and animals in a mountainous region.

Event headquarters will be at the **Whitewater Inn** (www.ocoewhitewaterinn.com), located at the intersection of US 64 and US 411 at Ocoee. Contact the Whitewater Inn for reservations (1-888-716-2633). Rates for nonsmoking rooms with two queen beds are **\$85.99** plus tax (\$10 each additional person). Make reservations for this meeting one month prior to the date if possible; however April is a relatively slow month, so reservations may be available later. A continental breakfast is available at the Whitewater, plus other restaurants are nearby.

An alternate lodging site is the **Black Bear Cove Resort** (www.blackbearcove.com), phone 866-438-2633. Accommodations are more upscale, but they do not serve breakfast, and no eating establishments are nearby. There is camping at the resort.

Registration for members begins at 4PM Friday in the motel conference room. Members who arrive on Friday are welcomed to Pat and Leon’s house in Laurelwood for heavy hors d’oeuvres.

Directions to the Bates house:

- From Chattanooga take I-75 North to Exit 20 (Cleveland).
- Turn right onto the APD 40 bypass.
- Follow the APD 40 bypass and exit to the Cherokee National Forest at Hwy 64 East.
- Follow Hwy 64 for approximately 8 miles to the intersection with Hwy 411. The Whitewater Inn (120 Whitewater Drive) is on the left opposite McDonald’s.

Dinner/Meeting:

- The site for the dinner and program is the Black Bear Cove Resort, located approximately 11.2 miles north of the Whitewater on US 411.
- Turn right onto TN 30 just past the start of the four-lane US 411.
- Turn left in approximately 0.3 miles.

Dinner includes one meat, three sides, and dessert with salad, rolls, and drink. The cost is **\$18** (*Editor’s note: this is a corrected amount*) and should be sent to Margie Anderton, 271 County Road 68, Killen, AL 35645 as soon as possible (there is a deadline of one month ahead). NOTE: If you send monies to Margie for both trips at once, please designate what amounts apply to each trip.

Trips:

On Saturday, we will trek along the banks of the scenic Hiwassee River and view wildflowers in adjacent cove hardwood forests. We will begin our trip at the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park nature

trail, and then we will travel to a nearby USFS picnic area for lunch. (Be sure to bring a lunch). After lunch, we will travel upstream to the Childer's Creek Trailhead of the John Muir Trail. Here we will walk in the footsteps John Muir made in 1867 when he explored this area and described the Hiwassee as having "forest walls vine-draped and flowery as Eden". This riparian habitat also supports colonies of the threatened and endangered Ruth's Golden Aster. Note: these trail sections are relatively level and were designed to accommodate senior citizens.

After returning to the Trailhead, wildflower members and friends will have the option of returning to the Inn or taking a scenic side-trip upriver via auto to the upper Hiwassee. We will return to the Black Bear Cove Resort in time for the dinner and program at 6PM.

On Sunday, we will travel east on Hwy 64 along the Ocoee River and Parksville Lake to the Cherokee National Forest and turn left on FS 77 just past the Ocoee District Ranger Station on the way to the Chilhowee Recreation Area at McCamy Lake. The "CCC" Boys built this small lake in the 30's and added several connecting trails. A round trip of approximately 3 miles to Benton Falls will provide a chance to view a 65-foot waterfall plus wildflowers within numerous forest habitats. Alternative short trails will be available. Bring lunch and a \$3 user fee per car for this USFS recreation site.

For those interested a Sunday afternoon trip is available.

Editor's note: if anyone is interested in finding out more about the Alabama Wildlife Society, you can visit their website at www.alwildflowers.org. The chapter to which Leon and Pat Bates belong is the **Shoals Chapter**. You can also contact Leon or Pat at 256-710-5508 (Leon's cell) or 256-710-6509 (Pat's cell). Below is a picture of a Yellow Trillium, one of the many beautiful flowers you may see on this excursion:



May 20-23, Thursday-Sunday - Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Meeting in Monteagle, TN. This is a repeat of the announcement in the February and March Club newsletters. The SEFTC meeting is a multi-day fun-filled conference with daily hikes and informative sessions relating to hiking trails, trail maintenance and building better hiking clubs. There will be keynote speakers on Thursday night as well as at the end of the conference. Since the conference is being held on top of Monteagle Mountain at the Dubose Center, the hikes will be at such places as Fiery Gizzard. As the final schedule is developed, it will be posted on the website, www.southeastfoottrails.org. Please plan on attending.

For more information and to register, please see the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition website,

mentioned above.

June 5, Saturday - The Benton Mackaye Trail Association celebrates National Trails Day at the Ocoee Whitewater Center

The BMTA has reserved the conference center at the Ocoee Whitewater Center for National Trails Day on Saturday June 5th. This will be a combined event with the **Mountain High Hikers** (<http://www.mountainhighhikers.org/>), the Cherokee Hiking Club, and the **Tennessee Forest Service** (<http://www.state.tn.us/agriculture/forestry/>), with the BMTA (<http://www.bmta.org/>) as hosts. We will meet at the Center at 9 am for hiking, with a potluck lunch to follow in the conference center. Rafting is available from the various rafting companies, or you can watch the river action or cool off in pools of water along the side of the river. **Please bring a covered dish to share.**

Two, possibly three, hikes will be offered, starting at 9 am:

1. **Rock Creek Trail** – 5.5 miles, rated moderate.
Hike leader: George Owen. This trail is in the nearby Little Frog Wilderness. We will come back out to Ocoee Powerhouse #3, with only a few minutes shuttle.
2. **Copper Mine Trail** - 4.6 miles, rated easy
Hike leader: Pam Sullivan. This trail runs along the Ocoee River.
3. **Rhododendron Trail** (optional) – 2.5 miles, easy.
This hike runs along the Ocoee River hike, and will take place after lunch.

If interested in this event and/or any of the hikes, please RSVP to Pam Sullivan at 706-374-5281 or email hikingchair@bmta.org, as there is a group limit. **Note:** There is a **\$3** parking fee per car - we are to park in the lower lot. **Warning: if Hwy. 64 is still closed, this event will be canceled, as the Whitewater Center will be closed too.**

June 30, Wednesday - Deadline for TN Appalachian Trail license plate

The following letter was sent to Club member Rick Harris from **Joe DeLoach** of the **Appalachian Trail Deep Regional Partnership Committee**:

*I'm writing on behalf of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to first of all thank you for posting an announcement about the Tennessee Appalachian Trail License Plate on your website, and secondly let you know about a special offer. The plate is now available for a limited time for only **\$15**, a \$20 savings over the standard \$35 fee. (Renewals once the plate is established will be at the regular \$35 annual rate.) A year's free membership in the Appalachian Trail Conservancy remains as part of the plate offer.*

We have until June 30, 2010 to sell the 1000 plates necessary for the plate to become officially adopted by the State of Tennessee. We'd greatly appreciate any and all help the Cherokee Hiking Club could give in making it a reality.

We'd also greatly appreciate anything your members can do to spread the word amongst your club and in the community. I'm going to get some new applications with the \$15 rate to the Cherokee National Forest headquarters in Cleveland, in case it's more convenient for people to have the hard copy in hand.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Thanks for your help to date, and we hope you can continue with that through the homestretch!!

Sincerely,

Joe DeLoach

Appalachian Trail Deep Regional Partnership Committee Chair
Tennessee Eastman Hiking & Canoeing Club AT Committee Chair

Club members Rick and Brenda Harris have signed up for this plate, I (Rebecca Levings) have, and so have several others in the various hiking clubs in the area, as well as the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC). They are getting close to the 1000 mark, and just need a little more applications to get them through the “home stretch”.

This specialty plate will broaden awareness of the Trail within the state of Tennessee. Once 1,000 applications are received and the state begins producing tags, ATC’s share of the renewal fees will serve as a permanent funding source for the organization’s work to protect and maintain the 280 miles of the Appalachian Trail within the state. The Tennessee State Recreation Plan calls the A.T. “Tennessee’s First Recreation Trail,” and the A.T. frequently receives accolades, such as “#2 of Top 10 USA Outdoor Adventures” (ABC’s “Good Morning, America” and *National Geographic*) and “Favorite Long Distance Trail” (by the readers of *Backpacker* magazine).

A grant from the **Eastman Chemical Company Foundation** is allowing the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to offer reduced prices for 500 people that apply for an Appalachian Trail license plate in Tennessee.

As a result of the grant, the Appalachian Trail license plates are now available for \$15 instead of the usual \$35 annual fee. Renewals will be at the standard \$35 annual fee.

For more information and an application to take advantage of this offer, call ATC at (828) 254-3708 or go on line to www.appalachiantrail.org/tnlicenseplate. *I have also attached the application to this newsletter.*

Forest roads opening for spring:

The following information was forwarded to David and Debbie Flower from **Steve Biatowas** of the U.S. Forest Service: “Now that spring is in the air, in the next 2-3 weeks, we’ll have our contractors (Hubert O’Dell & Tony Harris) do work on the roads that were closed. These include Big Frog (to Beech Bottom Gap), Old Furnace, Bald River, Buck Bald, & Wildcat. Hopefully, these roads will be ready to open by 3/29. They’ll also be working on the following roads: Kimsey Hwy, Smith Mt., McFarland Spring Cr., Rafter, and Citico.”

Club pictures on CHC website. Check out the cool Powerpoint presentation on the CHC website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org/>. This presentation has lots of recent pictures of club members and hikes. Thanks to **Rick and Brenda Harris** for putting this together. **Warning:** if you have low internet bandwidth, this is a huge 18 MB file, so be forewarned!

Join the rest of the Cherokee Hikers on Facebook! We are now up to 44 members! Many young people are on Facebook; this could be a good way to generate interest in the Club among college age and other young people, and just to publicize the Club to your other Facebook friends in the area. To connect, press the CTRL button on your keyboard, and then click the image below to navigate to the CHC Facebook page.



Recent Hike & Event Reports

Turtletown Falls Hike – March 7, Sunday. While 7 participants were expected, three people and a dog made the hike this pleasant day, which was made for hiking. The Forest Service road going down to the parking lot was very slick and muddy from recent rains and snow. A couple almost made it to the bottom, but decided against going all of the way. They managed to safely turn around and went elsewhere. The other expected couple probably decided the same. The day had started off threatening, but just stayed overcast; occasionally



the sun was allowed to peek through on the hikers. For the three, or four counting the dog who had no say in this, it was a great 3 hour leisurely hike on the semi loop, stopping at both falls. The water was surprisingly high yet clear enough to see bottom in the creek and under the falls. The water flow over the two falls (Upper Twin Falls and Lower Cascade) was strong; something not recently seen in that area. Since the leaves are still off the trees, the view of Hiawassee Gorge and River from the bluff on our return was an added bonus. The hillside foot trail was a bit difficult in places and a couple of fallen trees had to be jumped; the occasional steep elevation gains, especially on the logging road up to the bluff on the return leg, got the blood pumping. Hikers Bob and Kathy Bortz is a new couple to this area and live between Tellico Plains and Etowah. Hopefully everyone will get to meet the Bortz's at our April meeting in Etowah; think new members.

March 13, Saturday – Metcalf Bottoms to Tremont Hike – this hike had to be cancelled (for the second time) due to bad weather. This hike will probably be rescheduled for the late fall/early winter as the views (without leaves) constitute the best part of the hike.

March 21, Sunday – Scenic Spur Hike – canceled due to bad weather. This hike will probably be rescheduled for the late spring/early summer.

Cherokee Hiking Club Minutes, March 11, 2010, Baptist Student Center at CSCC, Cleveland

The monthly meeting of the Cherokee Hiking Club was held March 11, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Baptist Student Center at CSCC. We made a \$50.00 donation for the use of the facility. Thanks to Lettie and Phil Burress for making reservations.

There were twenty-one members and two guests present. After the meal, President Randy Morris called the business meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Minutes were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon and were approved as read. Treasurer Ann Gray reported a current balance of \$1,270.20. Randy stated that annual membership dues must be paid by the end of March or members will be dropped from the roster.

Old business: Alison Bullock from the National Park Service and Ambassador for American Trails discussed benefits of volunteering at the 20th **American Trails National Symposium** which will be held **November 14-17** in Chattanooga at the Convention Center. Volunteers receive free attendance to one on-site concurrent session for every four hours volunteered. She gave handouts which contain a volunteer information sheet and may be submitted by mail, fax or online. Alison's email address is: Alison_Bullock@nps.gov. Randy reminded the Club that the **Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition Meeting** will be May 20-23 at Monteagle, TN. In addition to informative sessions, daily hikes will be scheduled. For information, go to www.southeastfoottrails.org. There was some discussion on whether we should establish a policy on hike pictures being displayed on Facebook. This will be discussed with Rick Harris, the club's webmaster. Ann Gray has attempted to locate club records dating back to the 1970's and 1980's.

New business: We voted to donate \$50.00 to Wesley Memorial Food Ministry at the Annual Meeting. Ann Gray informed us that we will not be able to have the June/ July meeting at the Gray's home because the fireworks display is going to be on July 4.

Hikes completed: Reports were given on Fort Loudon State Park, Harrison Bay State Park, and Turtletown Falls.

Upcoming hikes: The following upcoming hikes were discussed: Treemont to Metcalf Bottoms, Tellico River Cleanup, Beech Bottom and the Scenic Spur Trail. Kenneth Johnson's Cumberland Trail wildflower hike for April 3 has been cancelled and will be rescheduled. The **Alabama Wildflower Society** will join Pat and Leon Bates on the wildflower hikes coming up April 9-11 (for more information, see above). Their Saturday night program at **Black Bear Cove** is entitled "**Plants and People of Southern Appalachia.**" Remember Diane and Bill's Wolf Ridge to Big Frog hike and the Habitat for Humanity's Bike-a- Thon.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: **The April 8 Joint Meeting with the Hiwassee Club will be held at 6:30 pm at Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in Etowah. Bring your favorite potluck food. Russ Miller will be the guest speaker.** Drinks and ice will be furnished by the Cherokee Club. Tableware---(plates, cups, silverware, and napkins) will be furnished by the Hiwassee Club.
Respectfully submitted,

Jane Bohannon
Secretary

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