

The Cherokee Hiker

March 2011 Volume 27, Issue 3

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

~CHC Hike and Events Calendar~

- March 5, 2011 – Saturday. Walls of Jericho (6 mile loop, moderate to strenuous)
- March 10, 2011 – Thursday. Monthly club meeting at Ryan's
- March 12, 2011 – Saturday. Annual Tellico River Cleanup.
- March 13, 2011 – Sunday. Turtletown Falls (4 miles, moderate)
- March 26, 2011 - Saturday. Hen Wallow Falls/Cosby Area Exploration (4.3 miles, easy to moderate)

MARCH HIKES

March 5, Saturday, Walls of Jericho

Hike leader: Jennifer Schroll. **Hike rating: moderate to strenuous.** Length: 6 miles.

Directions to carpool: meet at Cleveland Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church at the corner of Peerless Road and Norman Chapel Road across from Cleveland High School at 7:30 am. Please call Jennifer Schroll at her cell number: 284-1256.

March 10, Sunday – Turtletown Falls

Hike leader: Marc Bernatti. **Hike rating: moderate.** Length: 4 miles.

The first mile is an easy level warm up stroll alongside the creek. Then, we'll take the left fork. It becomes a foot trail with some hill hugging and slight elevation changes, with switchbacks that take the trail down to below the twin falls. Usually, the water coming off the falls cascades dramatically down both sides of the center rock. From there, we'll continue to the second set of falls and then hike back out on the logging road. There should be great views of the Hiwassee from the higher rises on that road while the trees are still greening up. After looping back to the left fork we took to hike in, that easy mile stroll back to our cars will be a welcome cool down.

Directions to the trailhead:

- If coming through Tellico Plains on Hwy 68, meet at the Coker Creek Welcome Center/Post Office at 10 AM. If coming North on Highway 68 from Ducktown, meet at the trailhead in Farner/Turtletown at 10:30 PM.
- From Etowah (and points North), make your own arrangements to carpool or hook up at Hardee's in Etowah, Madisonville or Tellico Plains and head up the mountain South on Highway 68 to the Coker Creek Welcome Center.
- From Cleveland (or points South), the Ocoee Hardee's at Highways 411 and 64 or in Ducktown on

Highway 64 are good points to hook up or to carpool. Take Highway 68 North towards Madisonville/Tellico Plains. Approximately 15 miles North from Ducktown on Highway 68, look for the Farner Post Office on your left, turn left on Underwood Rd. After crossing the railroad tracks, take Duggan Rd on your left. *Bear left on Farner Rd. The Falls entrance is 3/4 miles on the right. Once you enter, keep driving. You'll cross a wet bridge and the parking lot will be just ahead.*

If interested in going, please contact Marc Bernatti at 261-2573.

March 26, Saturday - Hen Wallow Falls/Cosby Area Exploration

Hike leader: Randy Morris. **Hike rating: easy to moderate.** Length: 4.3 miles.

This fun hike will be to Hen Wallow Falls, which begins in the Cosby Campground of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. There are some brief, steep areas. This hike, which crosses some longer hikes (Maddron Bald, Albright Grove), goes through hemlocks, rhododendrons, and lush forest to the falls, which is 90 feet high.

Following the hike, we plan to eat at Carver's Apple House, a favorite restaurant in the Cosby area. After the meal, hikers are welcome to make a visit to the "Bearfoot at Rabbit Creek" cabin of Phil and Lettie Burress, which is only a short distance from the Apple House.

If interested in attending, please call Randy Morris at 423-650-0485 no later than 8 p.m. Friday, March 25.

Directions to carpool: we will leave from the Home Depot in Cleveland at 8:30 a.m. and meet any hikers from the Athens/Etowah area at the Athens Burger King (Exit 49 off I-75) at 9:00 for the two hour drive on to Cosby. **Please note that no one will be at the meeting locations if the hike is cancelled**, so it is imperative that you call Randy if you plan on attending; he will need a call list in the event of cancellation.

Other hikes and events in March: be sure to check the club website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org> for more March hikes and other events 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

March 10 – Thursday. February Monthly Meeting

We will meet at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cleveland at 6:30.

Directions: Ryan's is at 138 Paul Huff Parkway. From I-75, take exit #27, which is Paul Huff Parkway. Go east at the end of the exit ramp. Ryan's is next to the Bradley Square Mall Shopping Center. Turn between Applebee's and O'Charley's off of Paul Huff Parkway.

March 12, Saturday, Annual Tellico River Clean Up

Many CHC members participate in this annual cleanup effort. Registration will begin at **8:00** a.m. at the Tellico Ranger Station on the Tellico River Road (Forest Service Road 210). Participants are asked to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, gloves and a long sleeved shirt or coat. Please bring a sack lunch,

something to drink and all your friends! The first 100 participants will receive a t-shirt unique to the Tellico River Clean Up. For more information, call the Tellico Ranger Station at 423-253-8400 or Jerry W. French (webmaster/board member for Keep Monroe County Beautiful) at 423-368-4502.

This event is sponsored by the following organizations:

- USDA Forest Service
- TVA
- Trout Unlimited
- Chattanooga Trout Association
- Keep Monroe County Beautiful
- Atlanta Whitewater Club
- Chota Canoe Club
- Tellico Motorcycle Outfitters

April 2 – Saturday, Habitat for Humanity’s Bike to Build Event

At the February club meeting, David Flower presented information on this event, which raises money to build homes for those who otherwise cannot afford own their own home. Habitat for Humanity (H4H) employs donations from its events and volunteer labor to build these homes, which are sold to those people who qualify for special loans with zero percent financing. Long time club members David and Debbie Flower are heavily involved with Cleveland’s Habitat for Humanity. Last year, the first year the Bike to Build event was held, the Cleveland H4H raised \$20,000, and this year they hope to double that. Several Cherokee Hiking Club members were involved in last year’s event, and their efforts were much appreciated.

The Bike to Build event is enlisting volunteers to help with this event, as well as any riders who want to either sponsor themselves or be sponsored by someone else, or both. Each rider is encouraged to raise \$100 or more for his or her sponsorship. Volunteers will receive a free t-shirt and lunch, but are not expected to financially contribute. Volunteers are needed for help with parking, biker registration (Friday evening at Toyota of Cleveland and Saturday at Bradley High School), food tables, selling t-shirts, as turn directors stationed at every turn in order to assist the riders, and much more.

There will be four rides: a 12-mile ride, a 31-mile ride, a 62-mile ride, and (new this year), a 100-mile ride. All rides will begin and end at Bradley High School.

Early registration will be held at **Toyota of Cleveland** on Friday, **April 1 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.** All riders are encouraged to register on Friday if possible. Registration will also be held on **Saturday April 2 at 7:00 a.m. at Bradley High School.**

For more information, please check out the H4H website www.habitatofcleveland.org or contact either David or Debbie Flower at 476-3907 or 310-2480.

May 7-8 – Saturday and Sunday, SEFTC Leave No Trace Trainer’s Course

Hosted by the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition (SEFTC) in the Tellico Plains area of the Cherokee National Forest, in Southeast Tennessee. The course will involve a short easy overnight backpack trip into the Bald River Wilderness on the Bald River Trail. More information, including a flyer and poster, on this course can be obtained from the SEFTC website at <http://www.southeastfoottrails.org/SEFTC-LNT-Workshop.htm> or from Rick Harris at HarrisRi@aol.com. PS: This LNT course is being rescheduled to June due to conflicts with Mother’s Day.

The link for signups will be active on March 1 on this website as well. The SEFTC plans to conduct such

a course every spring and fall in various areas around the Southeast, depending on how well this course goes. The course size will be limited (15 participants maximum); thus those who want to take the course should sign up as soon as possible after March 1. **Note:** the Cherokee Hiking Club's webmaster, Rick Harris, is president of the SEFTC.

Cumberland Trail Conference

Some of the club members plan to be active in hiking the new Cumberland Trail, which is currently being built to link the Cumberland Gap National Park in Kentucky to the Chickamauga National Military Park at Signal Mountain in Chattanooga, a distance of around 300 miles. Find out more information on this ambitious project at <http://www.cumberlandtrail.org/>.

Membership in the Conference and participation in developing the trail are greatly needed and appreciated. Dues are used to support trail development. The following is a link to their December newsletter in PDF format. Warning: this is a LARGE file:

http://www.cumberlandtrail.org/docs/newsletter/ctc_e-newsletter_vol1_issue2_dec_2010.pdf.

Mailed Newsletters

During the club's February meeting, the club made a decision to not continue mailed newsletters starting in 2012. There were various reasons for this decision, which included increasing costs to the club, and needless time and work in copying, folding & stapling the mailed newsletters. Starting six months before the start of 2012, this announcement will be repeated in every monthly newsletter. During that time, there will be brief instructions on various ways to get the club newsletter via email; these will also be included in the newsletter.

Join the rest of the Cherokee Hikers on Facebook! 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

Dry Pond Lead Hike –February 11, Friday

Three hikers joined Karen Morgan for an impromptu hike on Friday in response to an email that she sent out to the group regarding “cabin fever”. Jane Bohannon, Sheri Stewart, Ruth Gafford and Karen (hike leader) trudged almost 3 miles **up** the Dry Pond Lead and then retraced their way back. It was a beautiful cool, breezy day. At this time of year one can see a lot of the surrounding mountains. You can also see more animal droppings and in more variety than you've ever seen. If the group had had a book to identify the various samples, they would have all returned not only “tired” but smarter than when they started out.

Some trail maintenance info: There were several large blowdowns, probably within 2 miles of the road.

After the hike, the hikers ate at the Dam Deli. Great food, excellent service, tiny waitress! This spontaneous group is shown in the picture below:



Twin Rocks Dayhike – February 20, Sunday

Four members holding joint membership in the Cherokee and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs, two members of the Cherokee Hiking Club, and two guests participated in this outing on a warm February day. The climb up to the rocks was short but steep in places with one hiker expressing an opinion that the hike was not easy, as rated. However, all hiked up to the rocks and all elected to climb the ladder to the top of the rocks. After a rest, we returned via the Piney River trail to complete the 2 1/2 mile loop.

Members participating included Effaleda and Bob Lee (hike leader), Jane Bohannon, Sheri Stewart, Debbie Zuidema and Aggie Scott. It was a pleasure having the guests from Athens and Cleveland, and hope they will participate in more hikes with us. The Twin Rocks group is shown in the picture below.



**Cherokee Hiking Club
February Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2011**

The Cherokee Hiking Club met February 10, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at Ryan's Steakhouse in Cleveland for the monthly meeting. There were twenty-two members and two guests present. We want to welcome **Mary and Judy White** who joined after the meeting. President Sonya Campbell called the business meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. after our dinner meal. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by Secretary Jane Bohannon. A correction was made to state that the May meeting will be held at Pat and Leon Bates' home. Sonya read the Treasurer's report in the absence of Ann Gray and reported the balance.

Old business: Updates were not available on the Ed Fest Bluegrass Music Festival at Tellico. Randy Morris reported no update from Steve Biotowas on the possibility of treating hemlocks for Woolly Adelgids along the John Muir & Oswald Dome.

James Anderson reported that the Mountain View Inn is not an option for the March meeting and we voted to have the March 10th meeting at Ryan's again; Jane will reserve the room.

The guest speaker for the **Annual Joint Meeting** has not been confirmed, but Steve Cartwright, Vice-President of the Hiwassee Club, has contacted Richard Taylor, who is a trainer for Wilderness Rescuers, to speak.

New business: David Flower presented information on the **Habitat For Humanity Bike to Build** event, which will be held on **April 2, 2011**. If you would like to participate as a biker or a volunteer worker, you may complete a registration form and submit it to the address as indicated on the form. Randy Morris presented information on the **"It's All About the Green" Environmental Awareness Day**, which will be held on **April 9 at CSCC**. We took no action on whether to participate.

Related to time consumption involved and cost to the club, Rebecca Levings, Newsletter Editor, proposed to phase out the mailing of newsletters by the end of 2011. The club voted to phase out "snail mailing" newsletters according to Rebecca's plan. There will be a clause on the 2012 membership form which states "newsletters will no longer be mailed." **They will be sent by email only.**

Hikes completed: Jane reported on the Athens Regional Park hike. James reported on the Metcalf Bottoms/Tremont hike. Clayton Pannell and Steve Cartwright participated in the Chainsaw Operation and Safety Training class.

Upcoming hikes: Twin Rocks will be led by Bob and Effaleda Lee on Sunday, February 20th. Clayton will lead Thunder Rock on February 26th. Walls of Jericho will be led by Jennifer Schroll on March 5. Marc Bernatti will lead Turtletown Falls on Sunday March 13th.

The March 10 monthly meeting will be held at Ryan's at 6:30 p.m. in Cleveland on Paul Huff Parkway. See the March newsletter for directions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Bohannon, Secretary

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