

The Cherokee Hiker

June 2014 Volume 30, Issue 6

Cherokee Hiking Club, Inc. • 198 Crews Drive • Benton TN 37307
www.cherokeehikingclub.org

~CHC Hike and Events Calendar~

- June 12, 2014 – Thursday. Club meeting/potluck meal at Charleston Park in Charleston TN at 6:00.
- June 16-22, 2014 – Monday through Sunday. Camping trip at Grayson Highlands State Park in VA. Leader: Clayton Pannell
- June 28, 2014 – Saturday. Buggy Top Cave hike near the University of the South, between Sherwood and Sewanee. 4 miles round trip, moderate. Leader: Leon Bates.

JUNE HIKES

Grayson Highland State Park Camping Trip in Virginia – June 16, Monday - June 22, Sunday

Event leader: Clayton Pannell.

We will set up camp on Monday June 16 after 4:00 p.m. and check out on Sunday June 22. We have made reservations for 20 people, and have 18 members and guests signed up to camp throughout the week. Each person will be responsible for their food, tent and any other gear they need. **Note:** it is about 26 miles to a grocery store from the campgrounds. There will be bike riding and long distance hiking on the Appalachian Trail (AT) available, along with peak bloom time for the flame azaleas and rhododendrons. For a brochure of the Grayson Highland State Park, see Clayton or <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/grayson-highlands.shtml>.

There are a lot of short hikes in the area and the AT is nearby, along with the Virginia Creeper bike trail. This is a group camping site and we will divide the cost out by the total number of campers, keeping the cost low. *There will be no pets allowed on this camping trip.*

Our group reservation # is **2-25191426**, in Clayton Pannell's name.

Hikes and events in June

For last minute updates to our current hike schedule, there are 3 places to check:

1. Our club website at <http://www.cherokeehikingclub.org>
2. The Cherokee Hiking Club Facebook page. Click on the Facebook link:



3. The Cherokee Hiking Club Meetup page. Click on the Meetup link below:



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

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

June Club Meeting – June 12, Thursday

The meeting will be held along with a potluck supper in **Charleston Park in Charleston TN at 6:00 p.m.**

Directions from Cleveland: head north on U.S. Highway 11 (Keith Street/North Lee Highway) to Charleston. In Charleston, go past the Post Office on the right, and a block or so later turn right on Cass Street. The park is a block down on the left.

Chattanooga YMCA Bold/Gold Wilderness School

The YMCA of Chattanooga has received grant funding to begin an Outdoor Leadership Development program for the boys and girls of the Southeastern Tennessee and North Georgia region. Boys Outdoor Leadership Development (BOLD) and Girls Outdoor Leadership Development (GOLD) is making available the opportunity for Outdoor Adventure and Education to a diverse range of our region's youth, many of whom would not have the resources or ability to experience this on their own.

The YMCA will provide all the gear and equipment necessary, along with capable and certified instructors to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. All participants need to bring are themselves, a change of clothes and a great attitude, with a desire to seek adventure.

With a full line-up of Backpacking, Canoeing and Mountain Biking Trips planned for the Summer of 2014, the YMCA is looking for excited and eager Adventurers of today and Leaders of tomorrow.

As an outdoor organization, the CHC is willing to forward this program information on to our members and provide the YMCA with any other avenues or chances to get this opportunity in front of the parents and youth of our area. So please help us spread the word of this exciting new program.

More information on our BOLD/GOLD Summer 2014 Program can be found at <http://ymcachattanooga.com/bold/gold-wilderness-school> . Also, inquiries can be made to:

Daniel Kadwell, Program Director
J.A. Henry YMCA
423-805-3315 or 423-266-3766, ext. 800
dkadwell@ymcachattanooga.org

National Trails Day Event – June 7, Saturday

All are welcome to join us for a day of "Paying it Forward" to the Cherokee National Forest. This is not a Cherokee Hiking Club event, but all CHC members are invited to participate.

Meet at the picnic area next to the beach at the **Indian Boundary Campground outside of Tellico Plains** at 8:00 a.m. for free pastries provided by Tellico Grains and for orientation. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes, and bring a lunch and plenty of water in a day pack. We will break up into crews of 8-10 people to work on a segment of trail somewhere in the local area. Then we will all return to the picnic area for a free dinner provided by the Tellico Outpost (pizza) and the Partners of the Cherokee National

Forest (burgers, etc.). Upon returning at the end of the day, all participants will receive a free T-shirt commemorating the day. Kids are welcome as well but must be attended by a responsible parent, guardian or youth group leader (church, scouts, etc.). This event also celebrates the naming of Tellico Plains as a Trail Town by the Southeastern Foot Trails Coalition and the Benton MacKaye Trail Association.

Partners in this event include: the U.S. Forest Service, TN Wild, the Wilderness Society, Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards (SAWS), National Trails Day, the town of Tellico Plains, Tellico Grains Bakery, The Outpost Pavilion, Southern Appalachian Backcountry Horsemen (SABCH) and Partners of the Cherokee National Forest.

For more information on the paradise that is Tellico Plains, see <http://tellico-plains.com/>.

Directions to Indian Boundary Campground from Cleveland: go east on U.S. 64 and turn north (right onto the exit, then left) on U.S. 411 in Ocoee. Continue through Benton and into Etowah. In Etowah, take a right onto TN State Road 310, heading east (Mecca Pike). This later turns into TN State Road 39. Continue until 39 dead-ends into TN State Road 68 on the outskirts of Tellico Plains. Turn right on 68, and then very soon turn left on TN State Road 165 (the Cherohala Skyway) and go through Tellico Plains. Continue on 165 for a little over 15 miles until the road curves very sharply to the right. Around there, Indian Boundary Road goes off to the left. Take Indian Boundary Road to the Campground.



Death of Long Time Club Member Bob Lee

I wanted everyone to be aware of the passing away of Mr. Robert F. "Bob" Lee, age 78, on May 24, 2014 at his home. He was an active member and hike leader for both the Cherokee and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs through 2011. He suffered a severe stroke and had a lengthy but miraculous recovery, to the extent that he and his wife of 54 years, Effaleda, were again able to hike the Athens Regional Park Trail and would do so nearly every day. In Bob's younger life, he hiked all the trails in the Great Smoky Mountains and did much "off trail" hiking in the Smokies.

Bob will be missed by both the CHC and Hiwassee Hiking Clubs. If you wish to send a note of condolence and acknowledgement of loss to Effaleda Lee, please send it to:

Effaleda Lee
P.O. Box 9
405 Martin St.

Please keep Effaleda in your thoughts and prayers. There were no children in the family.

Submitted by Jane Bohannon

Recent Hike & Event Reports

John Muir Trail Cleanup – April 5, Saturday

Five members and one guest came out on a very cool and sunny day to perform our spring cleanup on the club's section of the John Muir Trail and to pick up trash. We came upon a very small amount of trash; the person with the lopper had the most work to do. We also cut some small trees out of the trail; one was 7 inches in diameter which we had to cut with an ax.

Several spring flowers were in bloom, including blood root, violets, trillium and phlox.

Our trail is now in overall good shape, with a low-hanging tree at the bridge over Childers Creek and a blow-down with three trees near Big Bend. Our workers included club members Kathy Seymour, Carol and Carroll Guhne, Rose Hambright, hike leader Clayton Pannell and guest Bill Aly. I thank all the people who came out to work and those who helped with the car shuttle.

Springer Mountain Short Hike - April 12, Saturday

Six hikers, including Clayton Pannell as hike leader, met at the Hardee's in Ocoee to car shuttle to Amicalola Falls in the Amicalola State Park in Georgia. Clayton's son George Pannell registered as a through-hiker on the Appalachian Trail (AT), after weighing his pack and taking a lot of pictures. Then we started the long drive up to the parking lot near Springer Mountain.

The parking lot was full of vehicles and a lot of hikers getting ready; many looked to be through-hikers. The Cherokee Hikers (mostly day-hikers) hiked to the top of Springer Mountain on the AT and had lunch on top of Springer with another crew of hikers. We also met Randy Morris and his group of hikers doing the longer Springer Mountain hike for the CHC. We returned on the Benton MacKaye Trail to where it crosses the road and were picked up in a shuttle by Otis George's dad.

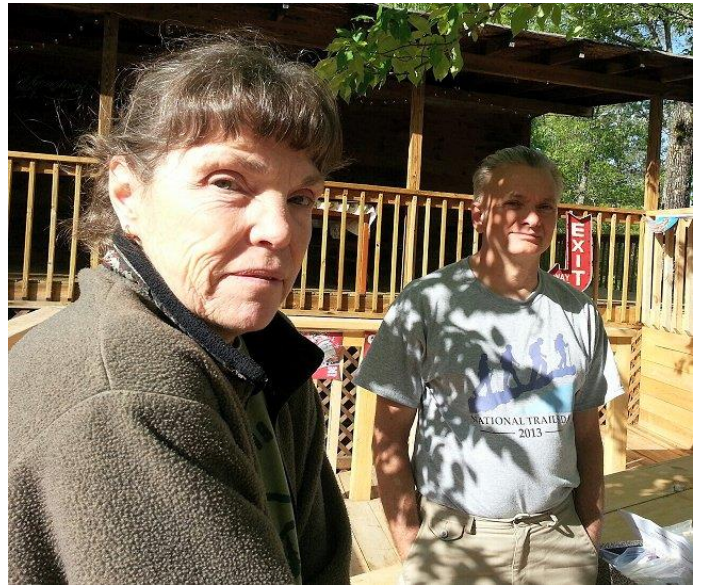
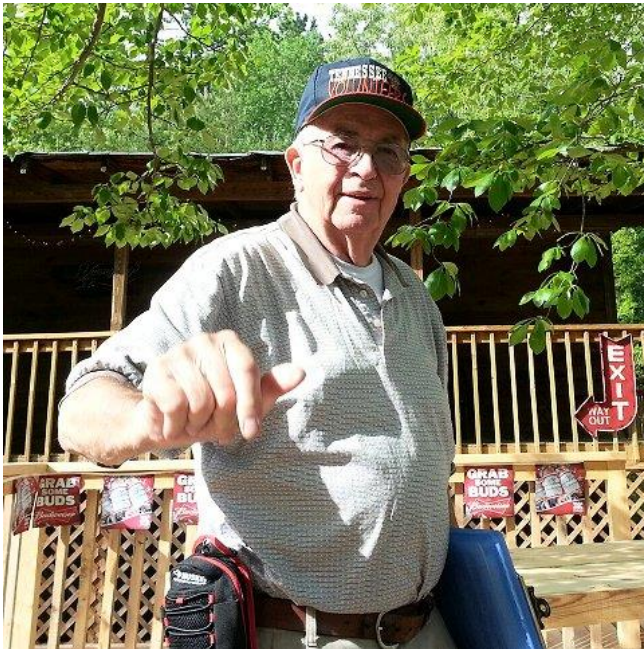
Coker Creek Falls Hike – May 10, Saturday

Many showed interest in coming, but with the early rain, not many showed up. Clayton Pannell, Randy Morris and Marc Bernatti (hike leader) were the only members that appeared, plus two guests: sisters from upstate New York who had been in the Coker Creek area all week working on the American Hiking Society trail project.

Because of all the rain, the road down to the bottom of Coker Creek Falls Trail was too treacherous, so we just went to the Falls and then changed our schedule, hiking the Unicoi Turnpike Trail instead. The afternoon turned out clear and comfortable with a slight overcast. Along the Unicoi Turnpike Trail we saw numerous trilliums still in bloom, many lady slippers, various-colored wild azaleas and a few blooming mountain laurels. All in all it was a great day for hiking. We finished just in time to attend the May Meeting at the Mountain Creek Hideaway and Grille, along with a few other club members who arrived just for the meeting. The food was excellent.

Below left is pictured our club president Clayton Pannell, who presided at the meeting, held on the new deck of the MCH Grille. Clayton is thrilled to be a **newlywed**; the lucky lady is fellow club member

Ruth Gafford. Below right are pictured long time club member Brenda Harris and club secretary Richard Foster.



**Cherokee Hiking Club Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2014
Mountain Creek Hideaway & Grille in Coker Creek, TN**

The meeting began at 4:30 p.m. closely followed by dinner. Some Volunteer Vacation participants joined 8 club members.

Treasurer's Report:

- Treasurer Randy Morris reported that our treasury was **\$1,888.99**.

Routine Business:

- We voted to commit **\$50** to continue our membership with the American Hiking Society.

Continuing Business:

- Randy Hedgepath will be contacted to speak of the Cumberland Plateau in the future.
- Rick Harris reported that the reroute of the Benton MacKaye Trail near Cheoah Dam is wrapping up ahead of schedule.

Hikes made:

- 12 April, Randy led a hike from Springer Mountain with the Benton MacKaye Trail Association.
- 4 May, James Anderson led a group, including people from Meetup, on the Harrison Bay Loop Trail.

Events planned:

- 7 June: Joining Tellico Plains Trail Days for trail maintenance, starting with breakfast from Tellico Grains at the Indian Boundary Campground in Tellico Plains, 8AM.

- 19 - 22 June (evidently rescheduled from the 13th): Grayson Highlands Virginia State Park camping trip.
- Clayton will have another John Muir Trail workday.

Next Meeting:

- 12 June: potluck at Charleston Park, Charleston, TN, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned after 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Foster, secretary